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GARRISON DIVERSION: FINAL REPORT
OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, announced today that the Governments of Canada and the United States of America had received from the International Joint Commission its Report on the "Transboundary Implications of the Garrison Diversion Unit" in North Dakota. Printed copies of the Report are expected to be available on or about September 26; in the meantime, advance copies are available for inspection in the Washington and Ottawa offices of the Commission.

The Government of Canada is grateful for the work of the IJC on this complex question. Substantive comment on the Commission's findings will be reserved pending study of the Report and consultations with the Province of Manitoba.

The Commission has summarized its conclusions as follows:

"In a report to the Governments of Canada and United States, the International Joint Commission (IJC) concluded that the construction and operation of the Garrison Diversion irrigation project in North Dakota "as envisaged" would cause significant injury to health and property in Canada as a result of adverse impacts on the water quality, and would cause adverse and irreversible impacts on some of the more important biological resources in Manitoba. "As envisaged" means the plan for the Project approved by the United States Government at the time the IJC was asked to investigate the transboundary implications.