

Canada and the U.S. are committed to cooperative efforts to clean up the Great Lakes under the 1972 and 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreements. The problem of hazardous and toxic waste disposal, particularly in the Great Lakes region, has recently become a matter of increasing concern to both Governments.

Another major issue of concern is the Garrison Diversion project in North Dakota. Other subjects of continuing interest are tanker traffic on the West Coast, and associated with the proposed oil refinery at Eastport, Maine; and the proposed flooding of the Skagit Valley in British Columbia.

Defence Relations

Very close cooperation between Canada and the USA during World War II established a lasting pattern of joint defence planning. The Permanent Joint Board on Defence, established by the Ogdensburg Agreement of 1940, ensures continuous consultation at the policy planning level on bilateral defence matters. Canada and the USA are founding members of NATO. The North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) Agreement between Canada and the United States has, since 1958, provided for joint command of the air defence of North America. The Agreement is due for renewal by May 12, 1981.

Joint defence production and development sharing arrangements are intended to ensure the maintenance of a long-term balance in reciprocal procurement of defence items and to utilize the industrial, scientific and technological resources of both countries in the interests of mutual defence.

Fisheries and Boundaries Negotiations

In January 1977, Canada extended its fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles; the United States followed suit in March. With these changes in fisheries jurisdiction, it became necessary to establish a new framework for fisheries management and cooperation. The extension of fisheries jurisdictions also exacerbated unresolved questions regarding the delimitation of maritime boundaries between Canada and the United States in the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank area in the Atlantic, off the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Dixon Entrance in the Pacific, and in the Beaufort Sea in the Arctic.

On August 1, 1977 the two governments appointed Special Negotiators to recommend a resolution of these issues. After eighteen months of painstaking negotiations, which witnessed a brief but well publicized period of strained fisheries relations in mid-1978, the Special Negotiators were able through a series of compromises to arrive at comprehensive agreement on the East Coast fisheries and maritime boundary. These treaties were signed in Washington, D.C. on March 29, 1979.

The treaty providing for the submission of the Gulf of Maine boundary delimitation case to adjudication by the International Court of Justice is directly linked to the East Coast Fishery Resources Agreement, the most comprehensive and detailed fisheries agreement ever negotiated by the Government of Canada. It provides, on a permanent basis, for cooperative management and for specific access and entitlements to particular fish