

In the course of our study, Mr. Lewis and I became acquainted with our countries' clean air statutes. In the process, it was brought to my attention that it may be possible for the United States to take, without the need for further legislation, modest but meaningful new steps in controlling emissions of pollutants that contribute to transboundary pollution, and therefore to damage in Canada. There are several provisions of the current U.S. Clean Air Act which could form the basis of additional U.S. responses. I would be happy to provide more detail on these provisions, and how they might be applied, in the event the Canadian government wishes to pursue this avenue with the United States.

I should also touch on a related matter. The section of our report which seeks to reflect the perspective of the U.S. government makes the valid point that the obstacles to action in that country would be reduced if better and cheaper technology were available to allow coal to be burned more cleanly. This leads to one of our major recommendations, and is a view which I share. But I believe that, even without such new technologies, proven means are available to reduce substantially transboundary emissions at moderate cost. From my discussions with Canadians, I am convinced that progress here would be applauded in Canada as a most important step and as a clear demonstration of the effectiveness of the closer bilateral ties which your government is seeking to build.

Your ultimate goal, I suggest, should be to negotiate with the United States a bilateral agreement on transboundary air pollution, including an emission reduction program with a reasonable timetable for implementation. Such a step would be in keeping with the tradition of resolving major bilateral environmental issues, and would ensure that effective and balanced actions are taken in both countries to deal with this shared problem.

I thank you for this opportunity to represent Canada in such an important undertaking and to help our two countries to take first steps towards resolution of this most serious environmental problem.

Yours sincerely,

William G. Davis