



REF

communiqué

No: 110
No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: DECEMBER 18, 1978

CANADIAN-U.S. TALKS ON AIR QUALITY

Canadian and U.S. officials held informal and exploratory discussions on transboundary air pollution on Friday December 15, 1978 in Washington. These discussions were held following the call of the U.S. Congress for United States/Canadian negotiations on an air quality agreement. Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance agreed during Mr. Vance's visit to Ottawa November 21-22, 1978 that these talks should begin soon.

The discussions covered an overview of priority air quality problems and reviewed existing modes and mechanisms for cooperation on air quality matters, both bilaterally and in the context of the International Joint Commission. Views were also exchanged on air pollution control programmes in each country. The role of the Canadian provinces in respect of these programmes was noted by Canadian officials.

Among the issues discussed was the problem of long range transport of air pollutants. Both sides recognized the importance of current efforts by the two countries to coordinate research on long-range transboundary air pollution.

It was agreed that this initial exchange of views was useful, and that further consultations would be required on these issues. Both sides also agreed to continue these discussions in early 1979.

