

Mr. Clark noted that Ambassador Gotlieb has been asked to testify in a U.S. court, as an official representative of the Government of Canada, with respect to official communications with and representations made to officials in the White House concerning the acid rain problem. Mr. Clark said that "to agree to have the official representative of the Canadian Government testify in such a matter before a U.S. judicial body would be incompatible with Canada's status as a sovereign state". He also noted that it would jeopardize the conduct of diplomacy and would create a far-reaching precedent for attempts to compel appearances by Canadian officials before U.S. investigative bodies generally. In these circumstances, Mr. Clark said that the Government of Canada, pursuant to standard diplomatic practice followed by all states, including the United States, has decided not to waive the Ambassador's diplomatic immunity.

Mr. Clark said that the position of the Government of Canada and the conduct of its officials, with regard to all aspects of this matter are and have been completely consistent with established norms of diplomatic behavior and Canadian and U.S. law.