



communiqué

N^o:
No.: 33

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: MARCH 15, 1982

THE GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan announced March 12 that the Federal and Manitoba Governments will collaborate even more closely than in the past to protect Canadian interests relating to the Garrison Diversion Project.

Over the past two weeks - at a meeting in Ottawa on March 2 and in telephone conversations - Federal Ministers (the Honourable Mark MacGuigan and the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy) and Ministers from Manitoba (the Honourable Alvin Mackling and the Honourable Jay Cowan) have had a full exchange on the question of how to pursue most effectively their continuing efforts relating to Garrison.

In these discussions, the concordance of federal and provincial interest was reinforced, and the importance of full and close cooperation between the Federal and Manitoba Governments was emphasized.

To this end, Ministers agreed on a number of steps.

It was agreed that the dialogue and consultation between Federal and Manitoba Ministers on this issue will be continued and that a joint ministerial committee will be established for this purpose. This committee will meet as required to determine strategy for the continuing effort on Garrison. Committee membership will include, from the Federal Government: the Honourable Mark MacGuigan (co-chairman), the Honourable John Roberts and the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy; and from Manitoba: the Honourable Alvin Mackling (co-chairman) and the Honourable Jay Cowan.

It was also agreed that officials from Ottawa and Winnipeg will continue to collaborate very closely, both in Canada and in the United States, in the effort on Garrison. One important element of this collaboration will be the loan of a Manitoba official to the Canadian Embassy in Washington under a renewable arrangement. This official will work with the Embassy Counsellor (Environment) and under the direction of the Canadian Ambassador who will continue his active role in leading the Canadian governmental effort on Garrison in the United States.

Finally, the Manitoba government has decided to retain a Washington legal firm to provide day-to-day continuing advice, information and analysis on the Garrison question. Consistent with the coordination arrangements defined by Ottawa and Winnipeg, the firm will plan and conduct its work in close consultation with the Canadian Embassy.

Ministers agreed that by working in unison federal and provincial governments will be able to ensure that Canadian concerns about Garrison are most effectively conveyed to and fully understood by American authorities.