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**INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
INTERIM REPORT ON GREAT LAKES LEVELS**

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, today released the Interim Report of the International Joint Commission on Regulation of Great Lakes Levels. The Report describes the nature, scope and progress of the Commission's investigation into the possibility of further regulation of the Great Lakes and their connecting waters so as to reduce the extreme variations in levels that have been experienced. The Report also discusses the various elements governing lake levels, the interests affected by variations of levels and the problems involved in controlling outflows.

The Governments of Canada and the United States requested this study by the Commission on October 7, 1964 during a period when extensive damage was being suffered as a result of critically low water. Outflows of Lakes Superior and Ontario have been regulated for many years under criteria established by the Commission and approved by the Canadian and United States Governments. The Commission is reviewing these criteria and is also studying the desirability of regulating the outflows of Lakes Michigan, Huron and Erie.

In May 1965 the Commission held initial public hearings in Toronto, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, Windsor and Chicago. Earlier in December, 1964 the Commission appointed an International Great Lakes Levels Board composed of Federal officials to carry out the necessary technical surveys and investigations. The Interim Report states that the Board, with the cooperation of Provincial and State agencies, has completed the compilation

of basic data and is testing preliminary regulation plans for their effects on the various interests concerned - primarily shore property, navigation and hydro-electric power. The second phase of the Board's programme, to be completed by the end of 1970, is designed to develop improved plans and establish regulation criteria.

The Board's final report to the Commission will be made available as a basis for further public hearings. These hearings will give all those interested an opportunity to comment on the Board's report and provide the Commission with additional information. As soon as practical after these hearings the Commission will report to the Governments of Canada and the United States.