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BEFORE 10:00 HOURS
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TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY THE SPOKESMAN
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
AT THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
HEARINGS ON THE GARRISON DIVERSION UNIT,
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, MARCH 10, 1977

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

IJC PUBLIC HEARINGS ON GARRISON DIVERSION UNIT

March, 1977

Mr. Chairman, Commissioners:

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I wish to commend the Commission's International Garrison Diversion Study Board and the members and consultants of that Board's various committees, for the preparation of the comprehensive report on the transboundary implications of the proposed completion and operation of the Garrison Diversion Unit as instructed by the Commission on October 30, 1975, under the Reference dated October 22, 1975.

The Government of Canada has noted the Board's conclusions, particularly its conclusion that the Garrison Diversion Unit, as presently envisaged, will have adverse impacts on water uses in Canada. The Canadian Government has also noted the Board's technical recommendations and considers that they can serve as a sound basis for the major recommendations we expect from the IJC. It is clear from the Report, however, that implementation of the Board's recommendations concerning measures to reduce damages would not eliminate some of the negative water quality impacts of the project on Canadian waters.

In considering the Recommendations of the Board, the Canadian Government strongly urges the Commission to stress the importance of test measures that the Board recommends be undertaken prior to project

completion or full-scale operation. Canada specifically requests that consideration be given to limiting the size of the representative irrigation test areas to that necessary to meet test requirements while minimizing potential transboundary impacts during the test period. It is further proposed that tests be conducted to determine, for the full range of potential crops, the optimum application of irrigation water, fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals and to define as clearly as possible "best management practices" as referred to in the Report. With regard to Recommendation No. 12, we believe that it is essential to have an effective mechanism in place to ensure that best management practices are, in fact, used.

Canada wishes to note its concern about the possible adverse effects on water quality of future developments which may arise as a result of the Garrison Diversion Unit, including food processing, beet sugar refining, feed-lot operations and others.

Canada also notes the Board's conclusions and Recommendations regarding the control of the transfer of aquatic biota from one watershed to another, and particularly the Recommendations of the Board for modifying and pre-testing the proposed McCluskey Canal fish screening structure. The Department of Fisheries and the Environment has undertaken a review of the proposed design and operation of the structure and will be pleased to make the findings of its study available to the Commission before it prepares its report to Governments.

To conclude, I would like again to commend the Garrison Study Board and all who participated in the production of its report for the accomplishment of a demanding task. The Government of Canada looks forward to receiving the Commission's recommendations on measures that might be taken to assist both Governments in ensuring that the provisions of the Boundary Waters Treaty are honoured. Following its review of the recommendations, the Government of Canada will be prepared to enter into discussions with the United States Government with a view to reaching agreement on this matter.

In this respect, I would wish to express the Canadian Government's appreciation for the positive reply which the United States Government has given to the Canadian Note of October 12, 1976, which had requested that further construction or decisions on construction of the Lonetree Reservoir be deferred until such time as the report of the International Joint Commission on the transboundary aspects of the Garrison project has been received and has been the subject of bilateral consultations. While the Canadian Government remains concerned about the possible impact on Canada of the Garrison project, it is encouraged by the United States Government's forthcoming attitude on this matter. We see this as another instance of the mutual and constructive efforts of the two governments to resolve transboundary issues.