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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

REFERENCE

PEMBELIER DAM AND RELATED FLOOD DAMAGE MEASURES

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U.S. and Canadian officials met in Winnipeg on October 31 to consider a U.S. invitation to Canada to participate in the construction of a flood control dam on the Pembina River in North Dakota, and to discuss works, primarily in Canada, aimed at improving the channel capacity of the Aux Marais and Walhalla-South Branch, Buffalo Lake, Drainage Systems on the Manitoba-North Dakota border. Officials from the State of North Dakota and the Province of Manitoba participated. The meeting discussed the interrelationship between the two proposals.

The officials expressed their concern at the persistent flooding in the region, and agreed that advantages would accrue to the two countries from construction of the proposed Pembelier Dam, near Walhalla, N.D. They agreed that planning of the Dam should proceed. Cost sharing arrangements between the two countries relative to the benefits to be conferred upon each country were also discussed. It was further agreed that a binational working group be constituted to review technical matters, updated costs, and a revised benefit/cost analysis of the proposed project.

Based on the discussions at the meeting, representatives of the St. Paul District, United States Army Corps of Engineers, announced that the District will proceed with completion of its Pembelier Dam Survey Report by June, 1975.

It was also agreed to establish a review committee with federal, provincial and state membership, with local advisers, to examine the December 1973 report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Water Resources. The new committee is to submit a draft agreement to governments by next spring. This agreement will address further remedial measures which might be taken to make channel improvements for flood damage reduction on agricultural land along the international boundary. The committee's terms of reference will be framed as soon as possible.