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CANADA/UNITED STATES RESEARCH CONSULTATION
GROUP ON THE
LONG RANGE TRANSPORT OF AIR POLLUTANTS

The Department of External Affairs today announced the release of the first Annual Report of the Canada/United States Research Consultation Group on the Long Range Transport of Air Pollutants (LRTAP). The release was simultaneously announced in Washington by the United States Department of State.

In recognition of its increasing significance, the two Governments requested the Group to provide them with a clear and concise statement of the nature of the LRTAP problem, as well as of its impact on the environment of eastern North America. Such a report was to provide a synthesis of existing scientific information which would make it accessible and understandable to the non-specialist community of interested persons. It was also recognized that such a report would be of assistance in the ongoing discussions on transboundary air quality.

Research programs in both countries are at an early stage, and have benefited from the coordinating efforts of the Group. The data in the report and the conclusions which it advances are of a preliminary nature. The Governments are providing this information to the public to encourage discussion of this important bilateral environmental issue. Further reports from the Research Consultation Group are expected in the future.

The bilateral Research Consultation Group was formed in October 1978 through an exchange of letters between the Embassy of Canada and the United States Department of State.

The Group is to consult on ongoing research efforts in Canada and the United States, and to facilitate a full exchange of technical information on the long range transport of air pollutants. Among the responsibilities of the Group are:

1. Analysis of currently instituted programs and those under development to determine where gaps may exist in the information base relating to the occurrence and effects of long range transport of air pollutants;
2. Promotion of measures necessary to ensure the inter-comparability of data generated by programs in both countries;
3. Promotion of the dissemination of appropriate data and research information;
4. Tendering advice and recommendations to the appropriate agencies in the two Governments with respect to modification of existing research programs and/or development of new research programs;
5. Preparation of a yearly status report to both Governments and other reports as deemed necessary.

The Group is co-chaired by a representative of Environment Canada and of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and is comprised of representatives of a number of Canadian and United States agencies with research interests related to LRTAP. The Group has had two plenary meetings since its formation, as well as frequent contact between researchers in particular specialities.

A copy of the Report is available from the Press Office of the Department of External Affairs (tel.: 995-1874), or from the Information Directorate, Environment Canada (tel.: 994-1410).