

the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty. The Prime Minister indicated that he hoped our proposal for diplomatic discussions would not present difficulties for the Administration in the forthcoming election campaign and he made it clear that the Canadian Government was not pressing for a speedy start to the discussions.

2. President Eisenhower's reaction was immediate and favourable and it seemed to me that he might have been prepared to have the discussions start without delay. The President indicated that he was not worried about the domestic political implications of our proposal, and it appeared that he would have been willing to announce immediately that the two countries had agreed to hold diplomatic discussions. At the close of the discussion the Prime Minister indicated to the President that we would follow up our proposal.

3. Prior to the Prime Minister's press conference, State Department officials indicated that they would have no objection to a statement to the press that the question of rivers crossing the international boundary had been discussed by the President and the Prime Minister. As it turned out, Secretary Dulles, at his press conference, which preceded ours by an hour, stated that the President and the Prime Minister had discussed questions relating to the development of the Columbia River Basin. When the Prime Minister spoke to the press, he said that he had discussed with President Eisenhower the possibility of having diplomatic discussions with the US concerning rivers which cross the international boundary.

4. Mr. Dulles clearly is in favour of our proposal, but I suspect he will be inclined to proceed at a slower pace than that which the President seemed prepared to set⁶

[L.B.] PEARSON

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to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 611

Washington, March 29, 1956

IMPORTANT

Reference: Our 601 Mar 28/56.

YOUR TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE
AFTER WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

Last evening you and I dined with Mr. Dulles at his residence. Livingston Merchant was the only other person present. During the two and a half hours which we had together the conversation ranged over a large number of topics, some of which had already been touched on at White Sulphur Springs. In five immediately succeeding telegrams I shall record summary notes on the more important topics discussed last evening. It will I think be more convenient to separate the topics in this way. If you have any corrections or additions from your own recollection I would be grateful to have them.

[A.D.P.] HEENEY

⁶ Voir aussi le document 272.
See also Document 272.