



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1955.

An exchange of correspondence has taken place between the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, and the chairman of the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission, General A. G. L. McNaughton, in relation to the control of the levels of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence power and seaway projects. In his letters General McNaughton has recommended, on behalf of the Commission, that the Government of Canada approve a specific range of elevations for the lake, certain criteria according to which the outflows from the lake should be regulated, and a specific plan of regulation in accordance with the range of elevations and criteria recommended.

The Government of Canada has accepted the Commission's recommendations with respect to the range of elevations and the criteria. It also has approved the plan of regulation as a basis for channel excavations required for seaway and power purposes in the St. Lawrence River.

In his second letter to General McNaughton, Mr. Pearson has informed the Commission of an arrangement which has been made to permit the use of a portion of the seaway canal to bypass as much as 40,000 cubic feet of water per second between Lake St. Louis and Laprairie Basin near Montreal, during the non-navigation season.