

Ottawa, February 18, 1971.

Dear Bill,

I would like to suggest that officials of our two Governments consult concerning problems which are likely to arise as a result of the movement of oil by tanker from Valdez to the United States Pacific Northwest.

I recognize that no decision has been reached by the United States Government to authorize construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. In view of the serious risks of pollution to the Pacific coast of our two countries from the massive movement of oil by tanker from Valdez to the Pacific Northwest, I consider that it would be desirable for consultations to take place before a decision is reached. This would be in keeping with the tradition of consultation between our two countries on issues where there is a joint interest.

I must add that this issue is one of great importance to Canadian public opinion, particularly in the Province of British Columbia.

Yours sincerely,

Mitchell Sharp.

The Honourable W. P. Rogers,  
Secretary of State,  
Department of State,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.