

EXCHANGE OF NOTES (FEBRUARY 7 AND MARCH 1, 1952) BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA RELATING TO SCIENTIFIC
INVESTIGATIONS OF THE FUR SEALS IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN.

I

*The American Ambassador to the Canadian Acting Secretary of State for
External Affairs*

UNITED STATES EMBASSY

No. 192

OTTAWA, February 7, 1952

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to refer to the Provisional Fur Seal Agreement between the United States of America and Canada, effected by an exchange of notes signed at Washington, December 8 and 19, 1942,⁽¹⁾ and extended by an exchange of notes signed at Washington, December 26, 1947.⁽²⁾

In view of the demonstrated need for international cooperation in the perpetuation of the valuable fur seal resource, and the efficacy of international cooperation to this end in the past, my Government considers that the early initiation of negotiations looking to a new multilateral convention concerning pelagic sealing is essential. It is the view of my Government, however, that if any such convention is to reflect in a high degree the specific interests of the nations concerned in the fur seals of the North Pacific Ocean, it should, so far as possible, be predicated upon scientific knowledge. My Government suggests, therefore, that an expansion of existing factual information regarding the distribution, migration, and feeding habits of the fur seals of this area would be highly desirable to facilitate the conclusion of a new fur seal convention.

You will recall that, in order to expand information on this subject, preliminary fur seal investigations were conducted in the waters off the coasts of Japan 1949 and 1950 by the Fisheries Agency of the Japanese Government with the cooperation of the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Government and under the auspices of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. Although these investigations were not on a sufficiently large scale to indicate conclusively the number of Pribilof seals which migrate to waters off the coasts of Japan or the quantities of commercially important fish consumed by these seals, the results did suggest that adequate data in this regard might be obtained were such studies pursued further and on a suitable scale. My Government considers it highly advisable to continue these studies, during the winter and spring of this year, taking advantage of the fact that a greater number of the seals tagged on the Pribilof Islands will be available for recovery this year than for several years in the future.

Accordingly, my Government proposes that a joint program of investigations be undertaken during a period of five consecutive months beginning in February 1952, for the purpose of obtaining scientific data concerning the distribution, migration, and feeding habits of the fur seals of the North Pacific Ocean which might be useful in the formulation of a fur seal convention. To implement this proposal, my Government is issuing an invitation to the Governments of Japan, Canada, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to

⁽¹⁾ Canada Treaty Series, 1942, No. 25.

⁽²⁾ Canada Treaty Series, 1947, No. 36.