

United States Embassy,
Ottawa, November 7, 1956.

No. 126

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department of State's aide memoire of April 21, 1956, concerning the excavations in connection with the St. Lawrence Seaway in the Cornwall Island channels, and also to discussions which have recently taken place between representatives of our two governments in which it was stated that your government had decided to dredge the channel north of Cornwall Island to a depth suitable for deep-water navigation at the same time that the seaway is dredged in the south channel.

The Government of the United States has given careful consideration to the situation which will exist if the Government of Canada proceeds to carry out its announced plan. While it believes that the proposed Canadian action is not in accord with the agreement which this Government entered into as a result of the enactment of PL-358, 83rd Congress (2nd Session) and with the other arrangements which have been made between our two governments with respect to the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Government of the United States does not wish to delay the construction of the joint Seaway project, in which both governments are mutually interested, and consequently it is bound by events to take cognizance of the de facto situation which is created by the decision of Canada to proceed with deep-water dredging in the channel north of Cornwall Island.

In the circumstances, the Government of the United States deems it important to record that the United States reserves all its rights to protect its interests in this matter.

"Livingston T. Merchant"

Honorable L. B. Pearson,
The Secretary of State for External Affairs,
Ottawa.