

Ottawa, December 3, 1955

Dear General McNaughton:

I refer to my letter of today's date in which I informed you of the approval by the Government of Canada of the range of elevations, the criteria and, for the purpose of calculating critical profiles and the design of channel excavations in the International Rapids section of the St. Lawrence River, plan of regulation 12-A-9.

The Government of Canada is naturally much concerned about the effects which the regulation of Lake Ontario levels might have downstream in the exclusively Canadian section of the river. This concern relates more particularly to:

- (i) flows during the ice-forming period each year; and
- (ii) the flooding hazard in February and March each year in the Montreal area.

Studies which have recently been made in Canada indicate that, with the "supplies of the past as adjusted", referred to in the criteria, and within the range of elevations, criteria and design of channel excavations referred to in my letter of today's date, it is possible to adjust the plan of regulation in such a manner:

- (1) that the total outflow from Lake St. Louis is maintained at or below 230,000 cubic feet per second during the ice-forming period each year in the Lake St. Louis-Laprairie Basin area of the St. Lawrence River; and
- (ii) that the danger of flooding in the Montreal area will not be aggravated.

The Government of Canada wishes to inform the Commission that arrangements have now been made for the redesign of a portion of the new 27-foot canal in the vicinity of Montreal which will allow a flow of 40,000 cubic feet per second to be by-passed from Lake St. Louis to Laprairie Basin through the canal during the non-navigation season. This will not only provide more favourable ice-forming conditions in the narrows between Lake St. Louis and Laprairie Basin by reducing the flows in this critical section of the river as the occasion may require from 230,000 to 240,000 cubic feet per second, but should also be of benefit to upstream interests on the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) L. B. Pearson

Gen. The Hon. A.G.L. McNaughton, C.H., C.B.,  
Chairman, Canadian Section,  
International Joint Commission.  
Ottawa