

TOP SECRET

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35. In the course of discussion the following points emerged:

(a) There were several instances where the United States had diverted for their own use, without consulting Canada, certain waters that would otherwise have flowed into Canada.

(b) Some doubt was expressed as to whether Canada would ever actually divert the flood waters of the Columbia into the Fraser as proposed. However, it seemed highly desirable to complete the engineering investigation suggested by the Chairman of the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission, as this would place Canada in a much stronger bargaining position to obtain adequate downstream benefits with regard to regulatory works constructed on the Canadian sections of the Columbia basin streams.

(c) In any public announcement that might be made on the proposed engineering studies, it should be made clear that Canada would fully protect the valuable fishery assets in the Fraser River.

36. The Cabinet agreed,-

(a) that \$250,000 be included in the usual estimates of the Engineering and Water Resources Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, for studies of the Columbia River to ascertain the engineering and economic feasibility of diverting a substantial amount of water from the Columbia watershed into the Fraser watershed;

(b) that the Canadian Ambassador at Washington inform the U.S. State Department, orally, that the Canadian government was undertaking a general engineering survey of the whole Columbia basin, including the possibility of diverting some water from the Columbia watershed into the Fraser; and,

(c) that the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources prepare, in consultation with the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Fisheries, a public statement regarding the proposed survey for possible use at some later time.

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