

2. *Port Huron to Stag Island.* It is proposed to deepen the channel from its present depth of 25.0 feet to the authorized depth of 27.4 feet. The excavated materials would be disposed in those sections of the river which are 40 feet or deeper or in deep water in Lake Huron.

3. *Stag Island to St. Clair.* It is proposed to deepen the channel from its present depth of 25.0 feet to the authorized depth of 27.3 feet. The excavated material would be disposed as in paragraph 2 above.

4. *Roberts Landing to Southeast Bend.* It is proposed to deepen the channel from its present depth of 25.0 feet to the authorized depth of 27.3 feet. The excavated material would be disposed in the deep water in the North Channel in U.S. waters.

II

The Secretary of State for External Affairs to the American Ambassador

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CANADA

No. 81

The Secretary of State for External Affairs presents his compliments to His Excellency the Ambassador of the United States of America and has the honour to refer to the Ambassador's Note No. 143 of November 30, 1956 concerning proposed navigation improvements to be undertaken in both United States and Canadian waters of the St. Mary's River and the St. Clair River sections of the Great Lakes connecting channels, exclusive of the Southeast Bend of the St. Clair River.

It is noted that the projects which involve the deepening of existing channels and the disposal of the excavated material are being undertaken to provide increased channel dimensions in the interest of the growing needs of commerce. It is also noted that the construction programme for the current fiscal year which ends June 30, 1957 includes the commencement of work in the St. Mary's River and it is anticipated that work in the St. Clair River may begin in the following fiscal year, that is after July 1, 1957.

In a previous request for permission to dredge in the Detroit River, nearly all the work to be done was in Canadian territory and one of the conditions agreed upon was that Canadian contractors should be given an equal opportunity with United States contractors to bid on the work. There was a further provision concerning the employment of Canadian workers. In the work to be done in the St. Mary's and St. Clair Rivers it is noted that the percentage of dredging to be done in Canadian waters is small in relation to the entire project and is spread through various sections of the two rivers. Since the Canadian portions of the dredging do not appear appropriate for separate contracts, the Canadian Government does not propose, in so far as the projects outlined in Embassy Note No. 143 of November 30, 1956 are concerned, to request equal opportunities for Canadian contractors to bid or request that Canadians be employed on these portions of the work.

It has been noted, however, that the dredging proposed by the United States Government may have the effect of lowering the levels of water over the sills of the locks at Sault Ste. Marie and that, in addition, it may change the amount of water flowing in certain Canadian channels in the vicinity of St. Mary's Falls and the St. Mary's River. The effect may be to reduce somewhat the usefulness of the present Canadian lock.