



PRESS RELEASE

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The International Joint Commission has submitted to the Governments of Canada and the United States its report and recommendations on remedial works designed to enhance and preserve the beauty of the Niagara Falls and River. The report and recommendations were submitted in response to a Reference to the Commission by the two governments on October 10, 1950, in fulfillment of Article II of the Niagara Treaty, signed and ratified in that year.

The Niagara Treaty of 1950 provides for the use of additional waters of the Niagara River by both countries for the development of electric power. It also provides for the construction by Canada and the United States of remedial works necessary to enhance the beauty of the Falls by distributing the water so as to produce an unbroken crestline on the Falls. Article II of the Treaty provided that "Canada and the United States of America shall request the International Joint Commission to make recommendations as to the nature and design of such remedial works and on the allocation of the task of construction as between Canada and the United States of America. Upon approval by Canada and the United States of America of such recommendations, the construction shall be undertaken pursuant thereto under the supervision of the International Joint Commission and shall be completed within four years after the date upon which Canada and the United States of America shall have approved the said recommendations. The total cost of the works shall be divided equally between Canada and the United States of America".

Upon receipt of the Reference of October 10, 1950, the International Joint Commission established the International Niagara Falls Engineering Board which, assisted by a Working Committee made up of groups in both countries interested in preserving the scenic beauty of Niagara Falls, officials of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, has made extensive studies and model tests of plans intended to carry out the objectives of Article II of the Treaty of 1950. After a study of the Board's report, the International Joint Commission has recommended the building of a control structure with movable sluice gates extending 1,550 feet from the Canadian shore about a mile above the Horseshoe Falls. This structure, together with excavations and other improvements on both flanks of the Horseshoe Falls, is designed to produce an unbroken crestline over the falls on both sides of the international boundary.

The Government of Canada will now take the plans and recommendations of the IJC into consideration in consultation with the Government of Ontario which will be responsible for the construction of the Canadian portion of the works.