

AIDE-MEMOIRE

The United States Government is referred to its request of February 28, 1979 for an expression of Canadian views and preferences regarding various proposals for transporting Alaskan and other crude oil to the US Northern Tier and other inland states. On April 16, 1979 the Government of Canada told the United States Government of its preference for the proposal put forward by Foothills Oil Pipe Lines Ltd. of Calgary. On August 20, 1979 Foothills significantly modified its application eliminating the need for tankers by proposing an all-overland pipeline route from Alaska. The Government of Canada expressed its clear preference for the modified Foothills proposal in an Aide-mémoire of September 28, 1979, because it would reduce the number of tankers travelling along the West Coast.

On October 15, 1979 Foothills informed the Government of Canada that for a number of reasons it was withdrawing from the contest as an applicant, at least for the present. The Government of Canada remains firm in its objective, as stated on September 28, of minimizing the risk of environmental damage on the West Coast from oil tanker traffic and of seeking means whereby current risks, including those in the sensitive inner waters of Juan de Fuca Strait and Puget Sound, may if possible be reduced. It should also be said again that the Government of Canada cannot make any final decisions until completion of National Energy Board consideration of the application now before it.

The President of the United States will be visiting Ottawa on November 9 and 10, 1979. The Prime Minister of Canada looks forward to this opportunity to discuss the full west-to-east pipelines question with him at that time.