

August 22, 1963

The Hon. Paul Martin, P.C., M.P.,
Secretary of State for External Affairs,
East Block,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Martin,

Further to my note of 12 August 1963 in which I acknowledged receipt of your letter of 6 August 1963, which had then just reached me.

In the meantime, I have made opportunity to review available information in respect to the various matters and queries which you have raised, and to consider again the conclusions which I have previously drawn therefrom.

I think I should say frankly that I remain firmly convinced of the superior merit of the I.J.C. plan Sequence IXa for the development of the Columbia and of the paramount necessity that the physical and jurisdictional control of the flow from the Canadian reservoirs and the determination and the allocation of the downstream benefits therefrom to power and flood control be brought back into accord with the principles presented by the I.J.C. in the report to Governments of 29 December 1959 setting out the principles which should govern these matters.

The basic reason why the right of Canada to control our own waters within our own territory must be maintained, free of servitude, is set forth and explained in my Article in the 1963 Spring Issue of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL, a copy of which I sent you.

In the course of the last several days, I have gone over the matters mentioned in your letter and I have reached the conclusion that the information required is given comprehensively in my article in the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL and I confirm that this article correctly presents my views on the several points.

Therefore I think that what is required of me is that I should respond to your question as to what I would myself do in existing circumstances.

I recall that the engineering consultants appointed by the British Columbia Government appear to have been given terms of reference strictly confined to the Treaty projects only. At any rate, their published reports do not embrace the alternatives, and in particular the very great advantages to Canada which I consider we would secure from sequence IXa are not reflected in their presentations.

I consider that this is an extremely unsatisfactory position for the responsible Government on the eve of decision.

I would therefore, and at once, before entering into any further commitment, whether by Protocol or otherwise, appoint an independent consultant and call for a report to include the alternatives not yet included in consultant studies - specifically, the sequence IXa alternative.