

CHAPITRE XI/CHAPTER XI
SOVERAINETÉ DANS L'ARCTIQUE
ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY

752.

DEA/9057-40

*Extrait d'un télégramme du secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
à l'ambassadeur aux États-Unis*

*Extract of Telegram from Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Ambassador in United States*

TELEGRAM L-136

Ottawa, October 10, 1962

SECRET. CANADIAN EYES ONLY. PRIORITY.

Reference: Your Tel 2429 Aug 29.†

USA NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES IN ARCTIC WATERS

Consideration was given at the interdepartmental level to this recent exercise with regard to its possible implications for Canadian claims to sovereignty in the Arctic. It was noted that one of the two vessels concerned, the USS *Skate*, had effected passage in both directions through the waters of the Arctic Archipelago, informal notification of such passage having been received through service channels. Compared with the June 1960 voyage of the USS *Sea Dragon*, when Canadian concurrence was requested,¹ notification in this case was merely "for your information." While notification is all that can be required under the agreed clearance procedures between Canada and the US for passage of warships through territorial waters, it was given for the return voyage on August 17 i.e. one day after the trip had actually begun. No reply was sent at the time by the RCN to either message.

2. It was noted further that the subsequent press release reported in your telegram made no mention of prior consultation with Canadian authorities and was thus likely to give the impression that the waters of the Arctic Archipelago are international waters not subject to Canadian jurisdiction or control. You will recall (your telegram 2217 of September 1, 1960) that a similar difficulty arose over the *Sea Dragon* and that we made clear our desire at the time to be consulted at all stages concerning public announcement of such voyages.

3. As a result of this study the Minister has directed that the following reply to the messages from the US Navy should go forward:

"It is noted that in contrast to the passage of USS *Sea Dragon* in August 60, when concurrence was requested six weeks ahead of time, notice of the proposed passage of USS *Skate* was much shorter, and in the case of the return voyage was not received until the day after the voyage had begun, contrary to the agreed clearance procedures, paragraph 5(d) of which provides for a minimum 24 hours' notice.

"Request you point this out to COMSUBLANT and ask that minimum possible notification of future nuclear submarine transits be given in order that the required clearances for such passages may be obtained."

It is understood that this message will be sent today from Naval Headquarters to CANCOMARLANT information CANAIRHED.

¹ Voir/See Volume 27, documents 663-665.