



news release

Date July 31, 1985.

85/114

For release

VOYAGE OF THE POLAR SEA

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Mazankowski, Minister of Transport and the Honourable David Crombie, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, announced today that Canada has authorized the United States Coast Guard icebreaker Polar Sea to conduct a voyage through Canada's Arctic waters between August 1 and 15, 1985. The voyage will proceed with Canadian support and participation.

Canada and the United States have consulted closely regarding plans and arrangements for the voyage.

The Government of Canada has made clear that the waters of the Arctic archipelago, including the Northwest Passage, are internal waters of Canada and fall within Canadian sovereignty. At the same time, the Government has reaffirmed Canada's longstanding commitment to facilitating safe navigation in the Arctic, subject to necessary conditions for the preservation of its environment and the welfare of its inhabitants. These conditions have been met.

The Government of Canada was informed of plans for the proposed voyage by the Government of the United States on May 21. In conveying this information, the United States proposed that the voyage proceed on a cooperative basis, with Canadian participation on board the Polar Sea.

.../2