

The Canadian Government is prepared to proceed with the construction of the seaway as soon as appropriate arrangements can be made for the construction of the power phase of the St. Lawrence project as well. Failing approval of the 1941 Agreement by the Congress, it will be necessary to refer the project to the International Joint Commission for approval. In order to proceed as rapidly as possible with the project, which the President and the Prime Minister have agreed is of vital importance, the co-operation of the United States Government in preparing concurrent applications for approval of the project to the International Joint Commission is requested.

Such a preparatory step would in no way prejudice the possibility of proceeding with the project on the basis of the 1941 Agreement in the event that the Congress should approve that Agreement. On the other hand, it is desirable to seek the approval of the International Joint Commission as soon as practicable in order to avoid any further delay in the event that the Congress does not approve the 1941 Agreement early in the present session.

It is proposed that appropriate officials of our two countries discuss the steps to be taken in proceeding with a reference of applications to the International Joint Commission for the construction of the project. A series of meetings beginning the middle of this month, either in Washington or in Ottawa, would be most appropriate for this purpose.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

H. H. WRONG

The Honourable Dean Acheson,
Secretary of State of the United States,
Washington, D.C.