

PRESS RELEASE

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that notes had been exchanged between Canada and the United States providing for temporary emergency diversions of water for power purposes from the Niagara area. Copies of the notes are attached.

The notes provide for the diversion above the falls of 4,000 cubic feet per second, as arranged in the exchange of notes between the two Governments on May 3, 1944, through the hydro-electric plants located along the Canadian side of the Niagara River, and the additional diversion of 2,500 cubic feet per second, during the non-navigation season only, through the Welland Ship Canal for use in the DeCew Falls power plant near St. Catharines. The diversion of the 2,500 cubic feet was recently requested by Canada at the instance of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario to alleviate the serious power shortage in Southern Ontario.

In view of the emergency power situation in Ontario, the agreement will be operative provisionally as of today's date with the understanding that it will enter into force definitively when approved by the United States Senate and if rejected by that body, the agreement will thereupon terminate and the diversion of water provided therein be discontinued.