

PRESS RELEASE



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IJC REPORTS ON CHAMPLAIN WATERWAY

The Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has announced that the Governments of Canada and the United States today released the text of the report of the International Joint Commission dated April 7, 1967, on the improvement of the International Champlain Waterway for commercial navigation. The text was tabled in the House of Commons by Mr. Martin.

On July 5, 1962, the two Governments requested the Commission to look into the feasibility and economic advantages of improving the existing waterway or developing any other routes for a waterway connecting the St. Lawrence River at or near Montreal with the Hudson River at Albany in New York State. The Commission concluded that neither the improvement of the existing waterway nor the development of other routes for the purpose of commercial navigation is economically feasible.

At the same time, the Commission noted the recreational developments that have taken place along the existing waterway as well as the recreational potential of the region and recommended that the two Governments pursue policies designed to preserve and enhance the natural beauty, the water quality and recreational potential of the Champlain-Richelieu area. The Commission stated that it would be willing to undertake a joint investigation of these aspects if the Governments were of the view that such an investigation would be helpful.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Commission are under study by the Governments.