

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

December 5, 2000

Excellency:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of note No. 0096 from the Embassy of Canada, dated December 5, 2000, which states in its entirety as follows:

"Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the Exchange of Notes of October 28, 1980, and December 5, 1980, between our two Governments constituting an Agreement providing for coordination of the icebreaking activities of Canada and the United States of America on the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway System (the "1980 Agreement"). I have the further honour to refer to the Exchanges of Notes of December 4, 1990 and of December 5, 1995 between our two Governments providing for the renewal of the December 5, 1980 Agreement for additional five year periods.

The 1980 Agreement, as renewed, has been beneficial to both our countries and has helped promote our shared objective of maintaining open routes for maritime commerce in ice-covered waters. Accordingly, I have the honour to propose that our two Governments agree to renew the 1980 Agreement under the conditions set forth in the Annex to the 1980 Exchange of Notes, for an additional period of five years from December 5, 2000.

If the proposal set forth in this note is acceptable to your Government, I have the honour to propose that this Note, which is equally authentic in English and French, and your reply to that effect, shall constitute an Agreement between our two Governments which shall enter into force on December 5, 2000 and shall continue in force for a period of five years."

His Excellency  
Michael Kergin,  
Ambassador of Canada.