



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO.85

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON EST,
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1956.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TODAY MADE PUBLIC THE TEXTS OF NOTES DATED NOVEMBER 7 AND DECEMBER 4, WHICH WERE EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR IN OTTAWA REGARDING THE DREDGING TO BE DONE IN THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER NORTH AND SOUTH OF CORNWALL ISLAND.

THE NEED FOR DREDGING IN THE CHANNELS AROUND CORNWALL ISLAND ARISES FROM THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AND POWER PROJECTS, CONSTRUCTION OF WHICH IS NOW PROCEEDING. TWENTY-SEVEN FOOT DREDGING IS REQUIRED SOUTH OF CORNWALL ISLAND TO COMPLETE THE DEEPENED NAVIGATION CHANNEL BETWEEN LAKE ST. FRANCIS AND THE NEW GRASS RIVER LOCK NEAR MASSENA, N.Y. THE UNITED STATES PLANS FOR THIS SOUTH CHANNEL DREDGING CALLED FOR ADDITIONAL DREDGING IN THE NORTH CHANNEL, BECAUSE OF THE PROVISIONS IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY OF 1909 REGARDING DREDGING ON ONE SIDE OF THE BOUNDARY WHICH AFFECTS THE LEVEL AND FLOW OF THE RIVER ON THE OTHER SIDE. AS THE NORTH CHANNEL LIES WHOLLY IN CANADIAN TERRITORY, HOWEVER, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS EXAMINED THE UNITED STATES PLANS FOR DREDGING THERE IN RELATION TO THE CURRENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR THAT CHANNEL.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT IS NECESSARY TO DEEPEN THE NORTH CHANNEL TO PERMIT DEEP-DRAFT SHIPS TO DOCK AT CORNWALL. HISTORICALLY, THAT CITY HAS BEEN AVAILABLE TO ALL SHIPPING USING THE ST. LAWRENCE SYSTEM, AND UNLESS THE NORTH CHANNEL IS DEEPENED TO TWENTY-SEVEN FEET THE DEEPER DRAFT VESSELS MAKING USE OF THE NEW SEAWAY