

EXCHANGE OF NOTES (MARCH 1 AND MARCH 31, 1948) BETWEEN
CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONCERNING
THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE LAND LINE
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM BETWEEN EDMONTON, ALBERTA,
AND FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

I

*The Canadian Ambassador to the United States of America
to the Secretary of State of the United States*

CANADIAN EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, March 1, 1948.

No. 95

Sir:

I have the honour to refer to Canadian-United States discussions which were held in Ottawa from October 31 to November 2, 1946, concerning the future operation and maintenance of the war-built land line communication system between Edmonton, Alberta, and Fairbanks, Alaska.

2. At these meetings it was recommended, subject to the consideration and approval of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence, that a number of facilities from Edmonton to the Alaskan border should be assigned for exclusive use of the United States, the annual rental to be \$271,000.

3. Subsequently at a meeting of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence on November 19-20, 1946, a report of these meetings was considered and approved, and on April 1, 1947, the Canadian Department of Transport made these facilities available to the United States authorities. At the present time the Canadian Government's Operating Agency, the Canadian National Telegraph, who are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the system on Canadian soil, are forwarding monthly accounts for the rental of these facilities to the Commanding Officer, Alaska Communications System, in Seattle, but payments have not been made as formal authority for the lease has not yet been arranged.

4. The Permanent Joint Board on Defence therefore recommended at the meeting of September 11-12, 1947:

"Communication Circuits of the Alaska Highway

The Board noted that the United States forces have definite need of the voice and teletype circuits along the Alaska Highway and that the Canadian authorities have made the circuits available. The Board approves this arrangement and recommends that the contract covering it be signed by the competent Canadian authorities as soon as possible, in order that accounts may be paid."

5. In order that the lease of these facilities may therefore be arranged on a governmental basis, my Government wishes to recommend that this lease be implemented as outlined in Annex I of this note.

6. I should therefore be glad if you would inform me whether your Government is agreeable to these arrangements. Your favourable reply to this note will be considered as constituting an inter-governmental agreement with respect to the facilities outlined in Annex I of this note.

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

H. H. WRONG