



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 58

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, 2 OCTOBER 1961

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green announced today that the Government of Canada had considered the recommendations contained in the International Joint Commission's final Report, dated October 7, 1959, on the St. Croix River Reference (1955) which concerns the development of the water resources of the St. Croix River Basin, and has approved all the recommendations with the exception of number 2 which is still under study. Similar approval was also announced today by the United States Government.

The International Joint Commission, of Canada and the United States, was established under the terms of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 to facilitate the settlement of boundary waters questions of mutual interest to Canada and the United States.

On June 10, 1955 the Governments of Canada and the United States, pursuant to Article IX of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, requested the International Joint Commission to investigate and report on the possibilities of further development of the water resources of the St. Croix River Basin in Maine and New Brunswick.

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To conduct the necessary investigations in the area, the Commission established the International St. Croix River Engineering Board with members from both countries. Interested parties were invited to present their views to the Commission at a public hearing held in Calais, Maine, on June 27, 1958. As a result of its investigations, and representations made at the public hearing, the Commission made a number of recommendations which were made public on November 10, 1959, and which have been carefully studied by governments concerned.

The Governments have accepted the Commission's recommendations regarding steps to be taken to abate the pollution of the St. Croix River and the recommendations that anadromous fish runs be restored, that re-development of the Milltown, N.B. site for power and other purposes should be carried out by Canadian interests, that an international stream gauging station be installed by the appropriate agencies of the two countries downstream from the dam at Woodland, Maine and that the Commission be authorized to continue studies of the possibilities of development of the water resources of the St. Croix Basin. The Commission's recommendation number two, which concerns water levels on Last Grand and Spednik Lakes, is still under review by Governments.