

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA  
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## PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1959

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TODAY RECALLED THAT SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, WILL BE THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

MR. SMITH SAID THAT THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE TREATY WITH RESPECT TO THE USE OF WATERS ALONG THE COMMON BOUNDARY HAD CONTRIBUTED IN LARGE MEASURE TO THE AVOIDANCE OF SERIOUS DISPUTES, AND IN CONSEQUENCE TO THE HAPPY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

IT IS UNDER THE BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY THAT THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED. ITS PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE AN INTERNATIONAL QUASI-JUDICIAL BODY TO IMPLEMENT THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE TREATY AND TO EXAMINE INTO AND REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS ON ANY QUESTIONS REFERRED TO IT BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

MR. SMITH SAID THAT MUCH OF THE SUCCESS OF THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN DUE TO THE HIGH CALIBRE OF THE MEN WHO HAVE SERVED ON IT OVER THE YEARS. "THEIR FAIR AND IMPARTIAL DECISIONS AND REPORTS HAVE COMMENDED THEMSELVES TO GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATIONS ALIKE", HE SAID.

THE MINISTER REFERRED TO A STATEMENT BY UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER TAWNEY IN 1914 WHO HAD EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS UNIQUE TO HAVE A TRIBUNAL "COMPOSED OF CITIZENS OF TWO INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGNTIES...." "ALTHOUGH I AM A CITIZEN OF BUT ONE NATION, I AM CONSTITUTED A JUDGE FOR BOTH." HE QUOTED COMMISSIONER TAWNEY FURTHER:

"IT MUST BE APPARENT TO ANYONE THAT WITH A BOUNDARY BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ALMOST 4,000 MILES IN EXTENT...DIFFERENCES AND CONFLICTS BETWEEN THEM WILL ARISE...THE NECESSITY, THEREFORE, FOR THE EXISTENCE OF THIS COURT, OR OF SOME SIMILAR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IS NOT

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ONLY MANIFEST, BUT THAT NECESSITY WILL EXIST AS LONG AS THERE IS NECESSITY FOR THE EXISTENCE OF COURTS EITHER IN THE UNITED STATES OR CANADA FOR THE DETERMINATION OF CONTROVERSIES ARISING AMONG THEIR OWN PEOPLE."

THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION IS COMPOSED OF SIX MEMBERS, THREE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THREE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CANADIAN SECTION OF THE COMMISSION IS GENERAL THE HONOURABLE A. G. L. MCNAUGHTON. THE OTHER CANADIAN MEMBERS ARE MR. J. L. DANSEREAU, PROMINENT MONTREAL ENGINEER, AND DR. D. M. STEPHENS, CHAIRMAN OF THE MANITOBA HYDRO-ELECTRIC BOARD.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED STATES SECTION IS THE HONOURABLE DOUGLAS MCKAY, FORMERLY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE MR. E. W. WEBER, SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE CHIEF OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, AND MR. F. L. ADAMS, FORMERLY OF THE FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION.