



# PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 96

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1955.

The following exchange of Notes has taken place:

Embassy of the  
United States of America  
November 16, 1955

No. 127

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to discussions concerning the St. Lawrence Seaway project which have recently taken place between representatives of the Embassy and representatives of the Department of External Affairs regarding the problems arising from the necessity to relocate that part of the Roosevelt Bridge which crosses the Cornwall South Channel.

It was concluded as a result of these discussions that the present bridge should be dismantled and a new bridge built at Polly's Gut; that the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation of the United States and the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority of Canada should agree on plans and build the new bridge as a joint undertaking, sharing the costs in proportion to the amount of the structure in the territory of their respective countries; that contracts for the construction of the bridge should be shared equitably between United States and Canadian contractors or, if this is not feasible, that United States and Canadian contractors should be given the opportunity to tender for contracts for part or all of the bridge on an equal basis; that waivers of customs and immigration regulations should be granted, on a reciprocal basis, by both Governments to facilitate the construction of the bridge; and that the Corporation and the Authority should make arrangements for the operation and maintenance of the bridge.

It was further concluded that the Corporation and the Authority would each have the responsibility for the relocation and construction of related facilities, including railway and highway approaches to the new bridge, and of meeting all requirements and procedures arising from the relocations in their respective territories, although the Corporation and the Authority may jointly make agreements with interested parties if they so desire. The Corporation and the Authority will

The Honorable

Lester B. Pearson,

Secretary of State

For External Affairs,

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ensure, each in its respective territory, that provision is made for the maintenance of relocated facilities. The dismantling of the existing south span of the Roosevelt Bridge will be a matter for agreement between the Corporation and the Authority.

In the course of the discussions on this subject, the Canadian authorities stressed the importance they attach to the provision of facilities for uninterrupted traffic between the bridge at Polly's Gut and New York State Highway No. 37, via the Grass River, the Grass River Lock, and the Raquette River Bridges as part of the joint plan for the displacement of the south span of Roosevelt Bridge. I am authorized to state that, to meet the wishes of the Canadian authorities, the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation is prepared to construct a supplementary bridge for two-lane highway traffic at the eastern end of Grass River Lock, in addition to the presently planned bridge for railway and highway traffic at the western end of the lock.

If the Government of Canada concurs in the foregoing conclusions, I have the honor to suggest, upon instruction from my Government, that this Note and your reply shall constitute an agreement to give effect to these conclusions, which shall enter into force on a date to be fixed subsequently by arrangement between our two governments.

I have the honor to suggest, furthermore, that the carrying out of this agreement be left to the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation and the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority as the designated agencies of the two governments.

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

(Sgd.) R. Douglas Stuart.

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Ottawa, November 17, 1955.

No. X-263

Excellency:

I have the honour to refer to your note No. 127 of November 16, 1955, concerning the relocation of that part of the Roosevelt Bridge which crosses the Cornwall South Channel.

I have the honour to state that the proposals included therein are acceptable to the Government of Canada, and that your note and this reply shall constitute an agreement which shall enter into force on a date to be fixed subsequently by arrangement between our two Governments.

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

(Sgd.) L. B. Pearson.

Secretary of State  
for External Affairs

His Excellency R. Douglas Stuart,  
Ambassador of the United States of America.