

GOVERNMENT



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The Department of External Affairs announced that the United States Government had been informed today that the Canadian Government now considers the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin Development Agreement of 1941 as having been superseded by the plan envisaged in the joint application of the two governments to the International Joint Commission and the order of approval thereof made by the Commission on October 29, 1952, and that Canada, therefore, does not intend to take any action to have the Agreement of 1941 ratified.

The text of a Note delivered by the Canadian Ambassador in Washington to the Secretary of State of the United States is attached.

NOTE OF NOVEMBER 4, 1952, FROM THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR
IN WASHINGTON TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED
STATES

Sir:

I have the honour to refer to the project for the development of power in the International Rapids Section of the St. Lawrence River, which has now been approved by the International Joint Commission in its order dated October 29, 1952, in accordance with the applications submitted to the Commission by the Governments of Canada and the United States on June 30, 1952.

You will recall that, when the St. Lawrence development plan envisaged in these applications was first proposed to the President of the United States by the Prime Minister of Canada on September 28, 1951, the President agreed to support this plan if an early commencement on the plan envisaged in The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin Development Agreement of 1941 was not possible. On April 14 last, when the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Transport discussed the St. Lawrence development with the President of the United States, it was agreed that the Governments of Canada and the United States would submit applications to the International Joint Commission for a St. Lawrence power project as a necessary preliminary step toward the implementation of the plan proposed to the President in September 1951. The applications were submitted on the understanding that both Governments would be ready, however, to revert to the 1941 Agreement and withdraw the applications if the Congress approved the 1941 Agreement during the time that the applications were under consideration by the International Joint Commission. Since these discussions, the Congress of the United States has not approved the 1941 Agreement which, after eleven years, still remains unratified.

The approval by the International Joint Commission of the applications of the two Governments for a power project now brings the St. Lawrence development to the point where construction can begin, both on the seaway and the power project, as soon as a duly designated entity has been authorized to construct the United States part of the power project. Legislation to implement the plan envisaged in the applications to the International Joint Commission has already been enacted by the Parliament of Canada and by the Legislature of Ontario, and Canada has already taken certain preliminary steps with respect to the construction of the seaway. The Canadian Government, accordingly, has concluded that it would no longer be practicable to revert to the terms of the 1941 Agreement or to place that Agreement before Parliament for approval. The Canadian Government, therefore, considers that Agreement as having been superseded and does not intend to take any action to have it ratified.

I should like to express the gratitude of my Government for the co-operation which has been received from the United States Government in preparing for the construction of the St. Lawrence project, which is so urgently needed in the interests of the economic development and defence of both our countries. On behalf of my Government, I should also like to request the continued co-operation and support of the United States Government in completing the arrangements for proceeding with this project.

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

H. H. Wrong
Ambassador.