

PRESS RELEASE

Information Division
Department of External Affairs
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December 23, 1948.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that notes had been exchanged between Canada and the United States providing for temporary emergency diversions of water for power purposes from the Niagara area. Copies of the notes are attached.

The notes provide for the diversion above the falls of 4,000 cubic feet per second, as arranged in the exchange of notes between the two Governments on May 3, 1944, through the hydro-electric plants located along the Canadian side of the Niagara River, and the additional diversion of 2,500 cubic feet per second, during the non-navigation season only, through the Welland Ship Canal for use in the DeCew Falls power plant near St. Catharines. The diversion of the 2,500 cubic feet was recently requested by Canada at the instance of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario to alleviate the serious power shortage in Southern Ontario.

In view of the emergency power situation in Ontario, the agreement will be operative provisionally as of today's date with the understanding that it will enter into force definitively when approved by the United States Senate and if rejected by that body, the agreement will thereupon terminate and the diversion of water provided therein be discontinued.

I

NOTE FROM THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

TO

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Washington, December 23, 1948.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the exchanges of notes of May 20th, 1941, and October 27th and November 27th, 1941, regarding emergency diversions of water for power purposes from the Niagara River, and to conversations that recently have taken place between officials of the Governments of Canada and the United States of America regarding the critical power shortage in Southern Ontario.

In view of the urgent need for additional power in Ontario and of the fact that there are existing hydroelectric facilities on the Canadian side of the Niagara River to use additional water, the Government of Canada hopes that the Government of the United States of America will permit the following temporary diversions:

1. The temporary diversion above the falls for power purposes of 4,000 cubic feet per second, in terms of daily aggregate, as provided in the notes exchanged between the two Governments on May 3rd, 1944, through the hydroelectric plants located along the Canadian side of the Niagara River.
2. The temporary additional diversion of 2,500 cubic feet per second, in terms of daily aggregate, during the non-navigation season, through the Welland Ship Canal for use in the DeCew Falls power plant near St. Catharines.

These diversions of water for power purposes shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. They shall terminate not later than April 15th, 1951.
2. They shall be reviewed periodically, as are the arrangements effected by the exchanges of notes referred to above.
3. They shall be used only through the existing hydroelectric facilities and shall not involve the construction of any new facilities.

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

H. H. WRONG

II

NOTE FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES

TO

THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

Washington, December 23, 1948.

Excellency,

I have the honor to inform you that the Government of the United States of America concurs in the proposals set forth in your note of December 23rd, 1948, and that it is willing to permit the diversions of water under the conditions stated in your note and on the basis that the diversions will not create any vested interest in the use of such amounts of water.

The Government of the United States of America considers that your note and this reply thereto shall be regarded as an agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada concerning this matter. In view of the emergency power situation to which you refer in your note, the Government of the United States of America will consider the said agreement to be operative provisionally as of today's date, with the understanding that this agreement shall enter into force definitively when approved by the Senate of the United States of America and if rejected by that body the agreement shall thereupon terminate and the diversion of these waters provided therein shall be discontinued.

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

ROBERT A. LOVETT