



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAKE ONTARIO LEVELS REFERENCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, today announced the public release of the International Joint Commission's Report on the Water Levels of Lake Ontario dated April 5, 1961. This question was referred to the Commission for investigation and report by the Governments of Canada and the United States on June 25, 1952 pursuant to Article IX of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. Under this Reference, Canada and the United States asked the Commission to study the various factors affecting the fluctuations of Lake Ontario water levels and to determine whether action could be taken by either or both Governments to bring about a more beneficial range of levels. The investigation was carried out in conjunction with related studies concerning applications for the development of power in the International Rapids Section of the St. Lawrence River.

The Commission's investigations were organized to evaluate effects of various factors on the levels of Lake Ontario, to determine possibilities for regulation of Lake Ontario so as to reduce the range of water levels, to determine desirable changes in existing works or other measures in the public interest, and

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to evaluate the effects of changes in existing works and other measures on various interests - riparian, navigation and power.

The Commission recommended for Lake Ontario a range of stage of 244.0 feet to 248.0 feet as nearly as may be, and this was accepted by Governments in December 1955. In its Order of Approval dated July 2, 1956 the Commission set forth that regulation of the outflows of Lake Ontario and of the flows through the International Rapids Section of the St. Lawrence River should be carried out in accordance with certain criteria, including the above range of stage. Another criterion provides that, in the event of water supplies in excess of past supplies, the regulatory works shall be operated to provide relief to riparian owners both upstream and downstream and, in the event of supplies less than those of the past, to provide relief to navigation and power interests. A plan of regulation was instituted on April 20, 1960, on the basis of recommendations of the Commission and, therefore, no further action by the two governments was recommended in the Commission's report.

The Governments of Canada and of the United States have expressed their appreciation and thanks to the Commission for the Lake Ontario Water Levels Report, which represents a great deal of intensive study and which should prove a useful reference work for many years to come for all those concerned with or affected by future developments in Lake Ontario.