



Ottawa, January 12, 1949

Dear Madam:

I have the honour to inform you that representations have been made to the Governments of the United States and Canada to the effect that the air in the vicinity of the cities of Detroit and Windsor on both sides of the international boundary in the area of the Detroit River, is being polluted by the discharge of smoke, soot and fly ash, in quantities sufficient to be detrimental to the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of both countries in this area. It has further been represented to the two Governments that vessels passing through the Detroit River are a source of this pollution. Pursuant to the provisions of Article IX of the Boundary Waters Treaty, signed January 11, 1909, the two Governments have agreed to a joint reference of this matter to the International Joint Commission. The Commission is requested to enquire into, and to report to the two Governments upon, the following questions:

- (1) Is the air over, and in the vicinity of, the cities of Detroit and Windsor, on either side of the International boundary, being polluted by smoke, soot, fly ash or other impurities, in quantities detrimental to the public health, safety or general welfare of the citizens, or to property interests on either side of the international boundary line?

The Acting Secretary of the Canadian Section
International Joint Commission
OTTAWA, Ontario

.....2

- (2) If the foregoing question, or any part thereof, is answered in the affirmative, to what extent are vessels plying the waters of the Detroit River, or any of them, contributing to this pollution; what other major factors are responsible and to what extent?
- (3) If the Commission should find that vessels plying the waters of the Detroit River, or any of them, are responsible for air pollution to an extent detrimental to the public health, safety or general welfare of the citizens, or to the property interests on either side of the international boundary line,
 - (a) what preventive or remedial measures would, in its judgment, be most practical from the economic, sanitary and other points of view?
 - (b) what would be the probable cost of such measures?
 - (c) by whom should such cost be borne?

For the purpose of assisting the Commission in making the investigations and recommendations provided for in this reference, the two Governments, upon request, will make available to the Commission the services of engineers and other specially qualified personnel of their respective Governments, and such information and technical data as may have been acquired by such Governments or as may be acquired by them during the course of the investigation.

The Commission should submit its report and recommendations to the two Governments as soon as practicable.

Yours sincerely,

