

The Secretary of State for External Affairs



Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures

Canada

OTTAWA, K1A 0G2

September 21, 1972

Dear Sir,

The Governments of Canada and the United States in the light of their rights and obligations under Article IV of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 with respect to the avoidance of transboundary pollution, and in light of their commitment under Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty to contribute toward the development of peaceful and friendly international relations by strengthening their free institutions, by bringing about a better understanding of the principles upon which these institutions are founded, and by promoting conditions of stability and wellbeing, are concerned about the quality of water in the St. John River system, especially in the international section of the St. John River and its upstream tributaries and in the downstream tributaries which cross the international boundary. The Government of Canada has undertaken to act as pilot country for a project relating to inland water pollution conducted within the framework of the NATO Committee on Challenges of Modern Society. A part of this project concerns the Basin of the St. John River. The Governments of Belgium, France and the United States have associated themselves with this project and are working closely with the Government of Canada.

In conjunction with this project the Governments of Canada and the United States have agreed to the establishment of a Canada-United States Committee composed of representatives of Federal, State, Provincial and local Governmental agencies to undertake a review of progress in the conduct of water quality planning in the St. John River Basin in both countries, to exchange information concerning plans, programs and actions which could affect water quality in the Basin, to assist in coordination and

..:2

Mr. D.G. Chance,
Secretary,
International Joint Commission,
Burnside Building, 151 Slater St.,
OTTAWA, K1P 5H3.

consultations among appropriate authorities, and to make appropriate recommendations to relevant authorities on both sides of the boundary regarding the improvement of water quality in the Basin. A copy of an Exchange of Notes effected in Ottawa today creating this Committee is attached to this Reference. It is therein specified that the Committee will provide the Commission with a final report of its activities, together with copies of the proceedings of its meetings and with annual interim reports as necessary.


On the basis of these reports and of such further investigation as the Commission deems appropriate, the Commission is requested, in accordance with Article IX of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, to inquire into and report to the two Governments on the following questions:

1. What action should be taken by the Governments in regard to those matters examined by the Canada-United States Committee in the light of its final report?
2. What joint institutional arrangements to assist the two countries in continuing their cooperative efforts to protect and enhance the quality of the water in the St. John River system and to avoid transboundary pollution would be appropriate?

Until such time as the Commission, following receipt of the final report of the Committee, is able to make a final report and recommendations in response to this Reference, the Commission is requested to submit to the two Governments from time to time such interim reports as the Commission may consider desirable.

In the conduct of its investigation and otherwise in the performance of its duties under this Reference, the Commission may utilize the services of engineers and other specially qualified persons of the technical agencies of Canada and the United States and will so far as possible make use of information and technical data heretofore acquired or which may become available during the course of the investigation.

Yours sincerely,



Mitchell Sharp