

MILITARY HIGHWAY TO ALASKA

Exchange of notes at Ottawa March 17 and 18, 1942

Entered into force March 18, 1942

Supplemented by agreements of May 4 and 9, 1942,¹ and April 10, 1943²

56 Stat. 1458; Executive Agreement Series 246

The American Minister to the Secretary of State for External Affairs

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Ottawa, Canada, March 17, 1942

No. 626

SIR:

1. As you are aware, on February 26th, 1942, the Permanent Joint Board on Defence approved a recommendation as a result of which the two Sections proposed to their respective Governments:

“the construction of a highway along the route that follows the general line of airports, Fort St. John–Fort Nelson–Watson Lake–Whitehorse–Boundary–Big Delta, the respective termini connecting with existing roads in Canada and Alaska.”

This recommendation, based as it was on military considerations and military considerations only, and having the endorsement of the Service Departments of the two countries, has been approved by both Governments.

2. My Government, being convinced of the urgent necessity for the construction of this highway and appreciating the burden of war expenditure already incurred by Canada, in particular on the construction of the air route to Alaska, is prepared to undertake the building and wartime maintenance of the highway. Subject to the provision by Canada of the facilities set forth in paragraph three of this Note, the Government of the United States is prepared to:

(a) Carry out the necessary surveys for which preliminary arrangements have already been made, and construct a Pioneer Road by the use of United States Engineer troops for surveys and initial construction;

¹ EAS 380, *post*, p. 274.

² EAS 362, *post*, p. 319.