

DIVERSION OF WATERS OF NIAGARA RIVER

Exchange of notes at Washington May 20, 1941

Approved by the Senate June 12, 1941

Approved by the President of the United States June 13, 1941

Supplemented by agreement of October 27 and November 27, 1941 ¹

Terminated October 10, 1950, by treaty of February 27, 1950 ²

55 Stat. 1276; Executive Agreement Series 209

The Secretary of State to the Canadian Minister

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

May 20, 1941

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to conversations which have taken place recently between officials of the Governments of the United States and Canada with respect to the immediate and pressing needs for additional power in the Niagara Falls area for national defense purposes. Throughout these conversations, as well as in previous conversations during the course of years, on the general subject of the Falls at Niagara, two objectives have been kept in mind: first, the scenic beauty of this great heritage of the two countries; and second, the utilization of the power resources available there, consistent with the primary obligation of preserving the scenic beauty of the Falls.

Recent surveys have indicated that there is now idle equipment available and set up which could utilize at once an additional diversion for power purposes of 5,000 cubic feet per second on the United States side. I am informed by the defense authorities of this Government and by the Federal Power Commission that this additional power is urgently needed in connection with the Government's National Defense Program. It is likewise understood from conversations with the appropriate Canadian officials that 3,000 cubic feet per second could be used immediately on the Canadian side in connection with the furtherance of the war efforts of Canada. These figures represent the immediate needs of the two Governments and do not pretend to take into consideration all industrial requirements of the two countries in the area by reason of the present emergency.

¹ EAS 223, *post*, p. 239.

² 1 UST 694; TIAS 2130.