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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

December 30, 1952 3-9-53. *filed*

General Dwight D. Eisenhower
Commodore Hotel
New York, N. Y.

Hugh Scott x

My dear General:

Re: Urgent Memo on U.S. Participation
In St. Lawrence Seaway.

Confronted as you and your staff are by a thousand and one pressing tasks and obligations, I hesitate to impose upon your limited time.

I do believe, however, it is necessary that I respectfully submit for your information today a memorandum on one particular subject which is most urgent and on which I, in turn, as prospective Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, have a particular responsibility.

This memorandum concerns the need for a decision by the new Administration, as soon as possible after it takes office, as to whether it will participate with Canada in the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway and whether at least part of the Seaway shall be constructed on American soil.

The situation boils down to this fact: --

Unless we now insist in effect that the Canadian Government leave the door open for U. S. participation in construction and control, it is my view, as I earnestly hope and believe it will be yours, we will have lost for our country forever any share in the greatest remaining resource on the North American Continent. To prevent that calamity I, for one, will at the start of the new Congress offer legislation for U. S. participation. I shall press for early action because this opportunity may be irretrievably lost in a matter of months unless Congress and the Administration act constructively.

I recognize, of course, that you will want to take up this matter in detail with Secretary of State-designate, John Foster Dulles, and with your other key advisors, and I do not expect any final commitment on your part at the present stage. I do feel, however, that I might be remiss if I did not at least submit this particular subject to your attention with the earnest hope that you may be able to consider it, if only briefly, and, perhaps to

December 30, 1952

direct your staff and appointees to review it at further length at first opportunity.

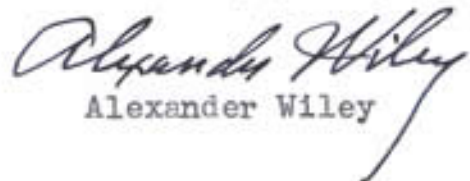
Your own previous statements on the Seaway have evidenced your keen understanding of the importance of U. S. participation. You, in particular, from your great military background, can appreciate the Seaway's meaning from the standpoint of:

- the inspection and clearance of foreign ships which enter into our country through the vitals of the Great Lakes;
- protection of the works against sabotage and enemy action;
- rights of navigation in case of differing international commitments between Canada and the U. S.
- priorities for passage at the locks, based on U. S. defense needs, etc.

May I say, my dear General, in conclusion that you have acted during this period since November 4th with brilliant dispatch, with that sense of high leadership and deep moral responsibility which have endeared you to this nation, and that I have the highest of faith that the Administration which you will pilot will live in American history as one of our greatest.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


Alexander Wiley

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