

CANADA
DEPUTY MINISTER

SECRET

Ottawa, July 17th, 1952.

G.F. Melrose, Esq., Deputy Minister of Lands, Department of Lands and Porests, Victoria, B.C.

Desr Mr. Melrose:

Proposed Pipeline - Haines to Fairbanks

When you were in my office yesterday you requested information regarding some of the terms and conditions which we contemplated incorporating in any agreement we had with the United States in connection with the proposed pipeline.

I mentioned the fact that the Federal Government desired to follow the same arrangements with the United States Government in connection with the acquisition of land that they do with other United States activities such as redsr stations and military establishments. This principle envisages acquisition of the land by the Federal Government from the province or private individual concerned, giving ownership of the lands in question to the Federal Government. In turn, the Federal Government provides essements or leases for limited periods of time to the United States Government. I think you will agree that uniformity in the application of this principle is desirable. For that reason it is hoped the Government of Sritish Columbia will be agreeable to transferring title of the property concerned with the pipeline through British Columbia, to the Federal Government.

The negotiations covering the conditions of the easement are about to take place with the United States Government. Consequently, it is difficult to give you at this time any forecast of what the final terms would be. I can, however, outline some general principles which the lendien Government will follow during the discussions.

Possibly the first and most important one is that there should be no alteration of Canadian land to the United States. The

United States would be granted, without charge, an easement for the pircline and telephone lines associated with this operation. The terms of tenure of essement will, of course, be the same as for the pipeline itself.

I think that the Federal Government will ensure that detailed plans and specifications of the Canadian section of the pipeline are acceptable to the appropriate Canadian authorities in advance of construction and Canadian officials should have the right of inspection during construction to safeguard Canadian interests.

The tenure which the United States should have regarding the rights relating to the pipeline and related facilities within Canada may be the subject of considerable discussion. From my discussions with External Affairs I have no doubt but that there will be an insistence on a specified term of years.

The United States will, no doubt, insist on some assurance of continued availability of the line to meet its defence requirements in Alaska. This pipeline, while of great importance to the defence of Alaska, will also be of considerable importance to us in connection with Canadian defence requirements and the latter should have equal priority with those of the United States in the use of the pipeline.

Steps will also be taken to ensure a fair allocation of the work to Canadian contractors and that an equitable proportion of the labour force used on the entire project will be Canadian. Canadian materials should also be used on the Canadian portion of the line, if available at a competitive price. Furthermore, Canadian law as regards tex laws, labour laws and workmen's compensation will apply except when special conditions warrant their being waived by Canada.

I expect that in due course a formal request may be sent to the Covernment of British Columbia seeking approval in principle for the vesting of the title to the lands in Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada. Meanwhile, I trust this general outline may be helpful to you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

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H. A. Young,

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