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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS - CANADA.

Reply to be addressed to:
The Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs, Ottawa.

Ottawa, January 13, 1955.

The Deputy Minister,
Department of Transport;

The Deputy Minister,
Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources;

The Deputy Minister,
Department of National Revenue (Customs and Excise);

--- The Deputy Minister,
Department of Citizenship and Immigration (Immigration);

Communications Arrangements for the
Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline

--- Attached is a copy of a self-explanatory letter dated today from this Department to the United States Embassy regarding the construction of the communications facilities for the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline Project. You may wish to arrange that any officials of your department, particularly those in the field, who are concerned with this project, are informed of the arrangements outlined in the letter.

M.H. Wershof,

for Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

, January 13, 1955.

Dear Mr. Mayer,

Communications Arrangements for
the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline

You may recall that the original plans for the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline envisaged that the communications requirements for that part of the pipeline in Canada would be met by using circuits provided by the Northwest Communications System from the Alaska - Yukon border along the Alaska Highway to Haines Junction; from that point a pole line was to be constructed along the route of the pipeline to Haines, Alaska. The intent of the above plans was reflected in the United States - Canada Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline Agreement of June 30, 1953. Paragraph 12 of the conditions attached to Note No. 288 from the Charge d'Affaires of the United States Embassy in Ottawa reads as follows:

"This agreement contemplates that communications facilities may be erected, operated and maintained at the expense of the United States, located within or reasonably near the right of way, under terms and conditions to be mutually agreed, for use solely in the construction and operation of the pipeline."

2. In September, 1953, at a meeting held in Ottawa and attended by representatives of the Department of Transport, the Northwest Communications System and the Alaska Communications System, the conclusion was reached that because the Haines road would not be kept open in the winter it would be impractical to run a pole line from Haines Junction to Haines. The Canadian officials suggested therefore that the land line circuits required for the pipeline should be carried down the Alaska Highway as far as Whitehorse and from thence on the pole line of the Whitehorse and Yukon Railway to Skagway. This plan was adopted and steps are now being taken to put it into effect.

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3. The Canadian Special Commissioner for the pipeline project recently received a telegram from the Alaska District Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers outlining the plans for rehabilitating the pole line and installing the circuits required on the section from Whitehorse to the British-Columbia - Alaska boundary near Skagway. He then asked for confirmation that the arrangements outlined in the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline Agreement with respect to such matters as the importation of material and equipment and the entry and departure of contractors employed would apply.

4. It is the opinion of the Department of External Affairs that the above described diversion of the communications lines required solely for the pipeline is in accordance with the intent of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline Agreement and that the arrangements provided for in the agreement should apply.

5. Accordingly I am informing the Canadian Government departments concerned of our views in this matter and will also arrange to have the Canadian Special Commissioner for the project notified of the action taken.

Yours sincerely,

M. H. Wershof

for the

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.