

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

FEB 19 1953

THE WHITE HOUSE

Dear Mr. Adams:

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This refers to your memorandum of January 31, 1953 requesting the views of the Department of Defense with respect to S. 589 and H. J. Res. 104, to provide, among other things, for the creation of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation to construct part of the Saint Lawrence Seaway in United States territory in the interest of national security, and to the memorandum from the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Association in support of such bill and joint resolution.

The Department of Defense has consistently supported the Saint Lawrence Seaway project as important to national defense. The views of the Department of Defense in 1952 on that project were set forth in the inclosed copy of a report of February 25, 1952 to the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in favor of the ratification of the agreement dated March 19, 1941 between the Governments of the United States and Canada.

The Department of Defense continues to support the principle of the construction of the Saint Lawrence Seaway and to favor a participation by the United States in the planning, building and operation of the Seaway project. S. 589 and H. J. Res. 104 would provide a means for such a participation through a Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. This Department is now studying that bill and joint resolution but is unable at this time to provide you with detailed suggestions with respect to their provisions. We will, however, complete our studies as soon as possible and give you such further suggestions as we may feel will be helpful in developing Administration policy on this aspect of the matter.

Sincerely,

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Inclosure

Honorable Sherman Adams
The Assistant to the President
The White House