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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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November 19, 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. STEPHENS
The White House

A working group of Canadians and Americans met at Massena, New York on November 10, to consider physical arrangements for the ceremony at which the President of the United States and Queen Elizabeth II would officially open the St. Lawrence Seaway. The Canadian Government has suggested Saturday, June 27, as a suitable day for the ceremony provided the United States authorities agree. Queen Elizabeth is due to arrive at Montreal on June 24. There will be a ceremony at Montreal which is where the St. Lawrence Seaway actually begins. The Queen plans to board the Royal Yacht "Britannia" at Montreal after that ceremony and proceed to the International Section of the St. Lawrence Seaway which is in the Cornwall, Ontario--Massena, New York State area. 5/7ths of the Seaway has been built by the Canadian Government and is completely within Canada. 2/7ths of the Seaway has been built by the United States and is within the territorial limits of the United States.

The Canadian Government, on behalf of the Queen, has made several suggestions for the ceremony which provide for long drawn-out occasions with the President being invited to Montreal to participate in an opening ceremony there and then proceeding as a guest of the Queen on the Royal Yacht "Britannia" to the International Section of the Seaway near Cornwall and Massena. The transit of the portion of the Seaway on the "Britannia" would require one night and one-half-day besides having the added disadvantage of being completely within Canada.

The only portions of the International Section of the Seaway which lend themselves for a public ceremony with sufficient space for large numbers of spectators are indicated on the enclosed map as the New High Level Bridge, between Massena and Cornwall which straddles the United States-Canadian boundary; the Bertrand H. Snell Lock; the Wiley-Dondero Ship Channel, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Lock (all three of which are completely within the United States), and the St. Lawrence Powerdam which is bisected by the United States-Canadian boundary. The

American

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American group suggested that the President meet the Queen at the Snell Lock where there is limited space for an audience and press and where the "Britannia" could be docked. The President and Mrs. Eisenhower might board the yacht "Britannia" at the Snell Lock and proceed on board the three hundred foot-long yacht through the Wiley-Dondero Ship Channel where great numbers of spectators could gather to observe the historic passage to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Lock. The Ship Channel is three miles long and the passage would take about 20 minutes.

There is sufficient space at the Eisenhower Lock for spectators up to approximately 15,000, provided space on both sides of the Lock is utilized to accommodate the audience. Therefore, it was suggested that the "Britannia" pass almost completely through the Lock, leaving the stern of the vessel just inside the west end of the Lock. The rear deck of the vessel would be approximately 10-15 feet above the surrounding ground level and thus form a platform for the ceremony.

After short speeches by the President and Queen Elizabeth, it was suggested that the President, Mrs. Eisenhower, the Queen, and Prince Philip could debark from the yacht and drive to the St. Lawrence Powerdam, approximately 15 minutes drive, where the President and the Queen would dedicate a commemorative plaque on the United States-Canadian boundary. Audience and press on the dam would be limited to about 400.

Following this the President and the Queen could complete a circular drive from the Dam through the town of Cornwall, cross the New High Level Bridge and return to the "Britannia" at the Eisenhower Lock. The President could then say farewell to the Queen at the "Britannia" and the ceremonies would be concluded.

The American committee suggested that the entire ceremony be held on the afternoon of Saturday, June 27, so as to avoid the difficulty of serving luncheon to a great number of people in such a remote area, although the ceremony could begin in midmorning and the Queen would offer luncheon to the President and Mrs. Eisenhower and a select group on the "Britannia". Obviously time will have to be included somewhere for traditional champagne.

An earlier proposal for having a United States ship, similar to the "Britannia", transit the St. Lawrence has been abandoned inasmuch as the United States has no craft comparable to the "Britannia". Further, it seemed that if the Queen and the Canadian Government were willing to have the major part of the ceremonies inside the United States, it would be a gracious act on our part for the President and Mrs. Eisenhower to accept the invitation of the Queen to make the passage on the "Britannia".

The Canadian

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The Canadian Government countered with another proposal, this time that the "Britannia" be docked at the City of Cornwall rather than at the Snell Lock and for the President and Mrs. Eisenhower to board the "Britannia" at the City of Cornwall and proceed from there to the Eisenhower Lock. Another proposal from the Canadian Government was for the President and Mrs. Eisenhower to continue the passage of the Seaway as far as Iroquois Dam which is an additional 30 miles which seemed unrealistic inasmuch as passage through another area of the waterway would have the ship at too great a distance from the shore for the personalities on board to be observed by the public. This last proposal apparently has been discarded.

A draft working program is enclosed to give an approximate idea of the time involved in an afternoon ceremony.

Clement E. Conger

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Deputy Chief of Protocol

Enclosures:

As stated.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1959

- 2:20 p.m. - The President and Mrs. Eisenhower will arrive at Snell Lock (Observe 7-minute lift).
- 2:30 p.m. - Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip will arrive in Snell Lock (After 7-minute lift), aboard the "BRITANNIA".
- 2:35 p.m. - The President and Mrs. Eisenhower will board the "BRITANNIA".
- 2:40 p.m. - Passage through Lock, and the Wiley-Dondero Ship Channel.
- 3:10 p.m. - Arrive Eisenhower Lock.
- 3:20 p.m. - Lift completed.
- 3:25 p.m. - Arrive west end Eisenhower Lock.
- 3:30 p.m. - Ceremonies aboard stern of "BRITANNIA".
- 3:50 p.m. - Ceremonies concluded.
- 4:00 p.m. - Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, President and Mrs. Eisenhower debark "BRITANNIA". Enter cars, depart for St. Lawrence Powerdam in President Eisenhower's car (possibly via Long Sault Dam to allow time).
- 4:15 p.m. - Arrive St. Lawrence Powerdam.
- 4:20 p.m. - Ceremonies at St. Lawrence Powerdam.
- 4:35 p.m. - Conclusion of ceremonies - leave Dam in President Eisenhower's car. Drive via Cornwall, Cornwall Island.
- 4:50 p.m. - Arrive Cornwall - Massena High Level Bridge.
- 5:00 p.m. - Leave Cornwall - Massena High Level Bridge.
- 5:15 p.m. - Arrive Eisenhower Lock, or other point of departure. Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, and President Eisenhower and Mrs. Eisenhower take leave.

Speakers: The President
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

No. of V.I.P.'s -- up to 5,000/6,000.
No. of Public -- up to 100,000.
No. of Press,
Radio, TV -- up to 1,200.

Financing ---