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January 15th, 1940.

The International Joint Commission,
Department of Justice Building,
Washington, D. C.

Sirs:

It gives me pleasure to inform you that the Governments of the United States and Canada have agreed to refer to the International Joint Commission, under the provisions of Article 9 of the Boundary Waters Treaty, 1909, for investigation, report and recommendation, the following questions with respect to the waters of the Souris (Mouse) River and its tributaries which cross the International Boundary from the Province of Saskatchewan to the State of North Dakota and from the State of North Dakota to the Province of Manitoba:

Question 1. In order to secure the interests of the inhabitants of the United States and Canada in the Souris (Mouse) river drainage basin, what apportionment should be made of the waters of the Souris (Mouse) River and its tributaries, the waters of which cross the international boundary, to the Province of Saskatchewan, the State of North Dakota, and the Province of Manitoba?

Question 2. What methods of control and operation would be feasible and desirable in order to regulate the use and flow of the waters of the Souris (Mouse) River and of the tributaries, the waters of which cross the international boundary, in accordance with the apportionment recommended in the answer to Question 1?

Question 3. Pending the final answer to Questions 1 and 2, what

interim measures or regime should be adopted to secure the foregoing objects?

To assist the Commission in obtaining any information it may desire in the course of the investigation, the two Governments have nominated from their technical services the following group of engineers, who are familiar with the problems on both sides of the border, and representative of the various interests:

Mr. E. J. Thomas, Chairman of the Group, Engineer representing United States, State Engineer of North Dakota, State House, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Mr. S. E. McGroory, Assistant Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Brice McBride, Hydraulic Engineer, Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Victor Meek, Chairman of the Group, Engineer representing Canada, Assistant Comptroller, Dominion Water and Power Bureau, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, Canada.

Mr. D. H. Stephens, Deputy Minister, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Mr. C. J. McGavin, Chief Engineer, Water Rights Branch, Department of Natural Resources, Regina, Saskatchewan.

In view of the conditions obtaining in the Spuris River watershed, I request that early consideration be given to Question 3, with a view to the consideration of the possibility of recommending interim measures to relieve the present situation.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Cordell Hull.