

## Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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FOR SCI/CHAPIN AND POLLACK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN INTEREST IN WEATHER MODIFICATION

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE CONFIRMS AND AMPLIFIES TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN SCIATT AND DEPT/SCI AND NOAA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE, JANUARY 11, ABOUT CANADIAN CONCERNS REGARDING PROPOSED WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON. THE HISTORY OF EXTAFF/SCI INTEREST IN WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES INVOLVING TRANSBORDER EFFECTS IS REVIEWED AND RELATE TO THE WASHINGTON STATE PROPOSAL. THE FUTURE COURSE OF EXTAFF'S CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER WILL PROBABLY INVOLVE PROPOSALS FOR BILATERAL TALKS AND POSSIBLY REFERRAL OF SUBJECT TO IJC FOR STUDY. GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED FROM THE DEPARTMENT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH BACKGROUND FOR KNOWLEDGEABLE RESPONSE TO THIS ANTICIPATED CANADIAN INITIATIVE.  
END SUMMARY.

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2. SLIGHTLY OVER\*ONE YEAR AGO, TECHNICAL GROUP FROM CANADIAN WEATHER SE\*VICE VISITED EXTAFF/SCI TO BRIEF THEN DIRECTOR BRUCE AND DEPUTY SPENCER ON TATUS AND BACKGROUND OF GREAT LAKES WEATHER MODIFICATION EXPERIMENTS BEING DIRECTED FROM NOAA'S BOULDER LABORATORIES. THIS GROUP REPORTEDLY HAD SITTING MEMBERS ON EXPERI-  
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MENTAL DESIGN AND REVIEW COMMITTEE. BRIEFING WHICH WAS

ALMOST COMPLETELY TECHNICAL REPRESENTED FIRST EXPOSURE OF EMBASSY SCIATT, BRUCE AND SPENCER, TO OPERATING DETAILS OF WEATHER MODIFICATION WORK WITH CROSS-BORDER IMPLICATIONS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. EXTAFF OFFICERS PRESENT INDICATED DESIRE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TECHNICAL DETAILS AND CONSULT WITH COUNTERPARTS IN STATE DEPT WITH VIEW TO DEVELOPING POLICY AND COMMON REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD MINIMIZE DANGER OF DISAGREEMENTS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS ARISING FROM WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES.

3. DURING ENSUING YEAR EXTAFF/SCI PERSONNEL SPORADICALLY RAISED SUBJECT BUT THERE WAS CLEARLY NO ONGOING PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY UNDERWAY. ON LATE AFTERNOON JANUARY 10, HAFHEY, CURRENT DIRECTOR OF EXTAFF/SCI CALLED SCIATT TO INFORM HIM THAT CANADIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER NOTE FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, INFORMING DEPT OF GOC'S CONCERN ABOUT IMPENDING WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES IN STATE OF WASHINGTON DESIGNED TO INCREASE SNOWFALL IN SAGGAT RIVER VALLEY FOR PURPOSE OF RAISING LEVEL OF WATER IN HYDRO RESERVOIRS. HAFHEY INDICATED THAT NOTE WOULD:

(A) APPROPRIATELY NOTE THAT GOC WAS AWARE USG AT FEDERAL LEVEL DID NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE FINAL JURISDICTION;

(B) REQUEST BEST OFFICES OF DEPT IN BRINGING GOC'S VIEW TO ATTENTION GOVERNOR OF STATE OF WASHINGTON, AND

(C) SUGGEST THAT WHOLE MATTER OF WEATHER MODIFICATION AS IT RELATES TO POSSIBLE TRANS-BORDER EFFECTS BE REFERRED TO IJC FOR CONSIDERATION AND EVENTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES COVERING FUTURE ACTIVITIES.

4. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH SCIATT, HAFHEY INDICATED THAT DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN "EXCITED" ABOUT PROPOSED STATE OF WASHINGTON ACTIVITIES AND HAD SOUGHT TO HAVE MUCH STRONGER NOTE WITH NO POSITIVE CONTENT SENT. SCIATT GATHERED IMPRESSION THAT AT THE INSISTENCE OF EXTAFF/SCI, PROPOSAL TO REFER MATTER TO IJC WAS INCLUDED AS A POSITIVE GESTURE DESIGNED TO DEVELOP POLICY AND GUIDELINES WHICH WOULD PERMIT BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO EVENTUALLY REAP WHATEVER BENEFITS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FROM WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES WITHOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCURRING UNDUE RISK.

5. ON JANUARY 11, HAFHEY INFORMED SCIATT THAT NOTE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE DELIVERED BECAUSE EXTAFF HAD RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON INDICATING THAT (A) PROPOSED ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN CANCELLED BECAUSE OF INCREASED PRECIPITATION FROM NATURAL CAUSES WHICH, IN VIEW OF WASHINGTON STATE OFFICIALS, OBLVIATED NEED FOR ARTIFICIAL INDUCEMENT; (B) CANADIAN EMBASSY

HAD LEARNED THAT DEPT HAD ALREADY SUGGESTED TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON THAT PROPOSED WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES NOT BE CARRIED OUT.

5. SPECULATING ON FUTURE COURSE, HAFHEY INDICATED THAT HE PROPOSED NOW, IN VIEW OF WASHINGTON STATE SITUATION, TO PROCEED WITH LONG PENDING INTERAGENCY MEETING TO DEVELOP INHOUSE PRELIMINARY VIEWS VIS-A-VIS WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES. (FYI: THIS MEETING IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 28.) WITHIN "REASONABLE" TIME THEREAFTER HAFHEY WOULD HOPE TO CONVENE A BILATERAL CANADIAN-U.S. MEETING TO THOROUGHLY AIR THE MATTER INCLUDING: (A) STATE OF THE ART; (B) WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER (SASKATCHEWAN RESEARCH COUNCIL HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN HAIL SUPPRESSION STUDIES FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND CANADIAN WEATHER SERVICE HAS FOLLOWED AMERICAN ACTIVITIES AND CONDUCTED SMALL SCALE EXPERIMENTS ON ITS OWN.); (C) LEGAL IMPLICATIONS; AND (D) HOW BEST TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM IN THE FUTURE. PRESUMABLY, TIMING FOR RECEIVING A PROPOSAL FOR A BILATERAL MEETING WOULD BE EARLY FEBRUARY WITH THE MEETING A MONTH OR TWO THEREAFTER.

6. FYI: ALTHOUGH NOT EVEN EXTAFF/SCI THINKING CLEARLY SOLIDIFIED AT THIS POINT, SCIATT GAINED DEFINITE IMPRESSION IN DISCUSSION THAT WHAT HAD BEEN A STOPGAP SUGGESTION TO REFER MATTER TO IJC SEEMS TO BE GAINING MORE SUPPORT WITHIN GOC.

7. ALTHOUGH DURING HOME LEAVE IN 1972, SCIATT VISITED NOAA'S BOULDER LABORATORIES AND CONSULTED WITH WEATHER MODIFICATION PERSONNEL THERE, AND HAD BRIEF DISCUSSION ON SUBJECT IN NOAA HEADQUARTERS IN OCTOBER 1973, THESE SHORT OPPORTUNITIES DID NOT REPEAT NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT BACKGROUND ON CURRENT STATE OF THE ART AND FUTURE PROGRAM PLANNING. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SOONEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL BACKGROUND MATERIAL TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING BETTER PROGRAM AND TECHNICAL UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES.\*

8. FINALLY, IN ORDER FOR US TO BE IN A POSITION TO RESPOND APPROPRIATELY AND FULLY TO THE ANTICIPATED CANADIAN APPROACH IN FEBRUARY, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING WHATEVER ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE THE DEPT MAY CONSIDER DESIRABLE, E.G. OVERALL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS, LEGAL ASPECTS, ETC.

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