



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

November 13, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

In reply refer to  
RA 711.1216M/2478

My dear Senator Hayden:

I have received your letter of November 1, 1943 in which you asked me to supply you with any additional information at my disposal regarding the proposed allocation to Mexico, by treaty, of a portion of the water supply of the Colorado River system.

In reply, I may state that since my letter to you of February 19, 1943, this Department has continued its efforts to find for the Colorado River problem such bases or principles as would give the best promise of a settlement that would be mutually satisfactory to the two governments and, at the same time, acceptable to all, or at least most, of the Colorado River Basin States.

In pursuance of this objective, a conference between the Committee of Fourteen and Sixteen and representatives of this Department was held at Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 14 to 16, 1943, at which certain proposals by this Department, regarding the Colorado River, met with the approval of most of the members of the Committee. For your confidential information, I enclose herewith a copy of these proposals.

Following

The Honorable

Carl Hayden,

United States Senate.

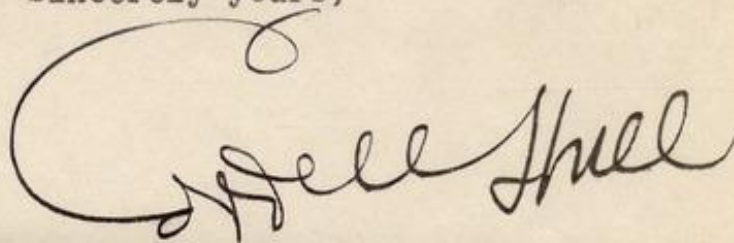


Following the Santa Fe conference, discussions regarding the international aspects of the Colorado River, and other boundary matters, were begun between representatives of this Department and of the Mexican Foreign Office. These discussions are still in progress. On no point, thus far considered, has this Department found it necessary to go beyond the Santa Fe proposals, and on some points even better results have been attained.

It is not yet possible to speak definitely, or in much detail; yet I am gratified to be able to state that according to present indications, the final agreement, if and when it is reached, will contain provisions whereby a considerable quantity of drainage and surplus waters will be charged against Mexico's quota, adequate river control and protection works will be assured, a proportionate share of the costs of certain works will be met by Mexico, and the United States will be protected in the event of extraordinary drought. Furthermore, I desire to emphasize that a definite ceiling will be placed upon the amount of Colorado River water that the United States will be obligated to make available for Mexico, and that this ceiling will not go beyond the terms of the Santa Fe proposals.

I shall be glad to supply additional information as soon as it becomes available to me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Coffey Hull". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Coffey Hull".

Enclosure:

Copy of Santa Fe formula.

SANTA FE PROPOSALS

It is proposed that the United States make the following deliveries of water to Mexico in complete satisfaction of any and all demands by Mexico now or hereafter, whether on the basis of established use, equity, or otherwise:

A. The United States shall deliver each year, at designated places so far as practicable, at the International Boundary and distribute through the year as requested by Mexico and approved by the United States an amount of water equal to ten per cent of diversions for that year from the Colorado River for agricultural and domestic use in the States of Arizona, California and Nevada.

B. In addition to the deliveries specified in paragraph A, the United States shall deliver, at designated places so far as practicable, at the International Boundary for use in Mexico any other water arriving and being available at the International Boundary from the Colorado River; provided that the aggregate amount of water divertible under this paragraph B shall never be less than 750,000 acre feet in any year; and provided, further, the aggregate deliveries by the United States to Mexico, including the amounts specified in paragraph A, shall not be more than 2,000,000 acre feet in any year.

C. Mexico shall not demand, and the United States shall not be required to make, deliveries of water to Mexico at rates in excess of 5,000 cubic feet per second.

D. Mexico shall not demand, and the United States shall not be required to make, deliveries of water which cannot be beneficially used in Mexico.

E. Mexico shall concede that it may not acquire any interest in, or make any claim to, the use of Colorado River waters in excess of the allocations made herein; and any deliveries of Colorado River water by the United States to Mexico in excess of the deliveries under paragraph A and the minimum 750,000 acre feet delivery specified in paragraph B shall be subject to such excess water arriving and being available at the International Boundary.

F. In case of extraordinary drought or serious accident to the irrigation system in the United States, the amount of water delivered to Mexico shall be diminished in the same proportion as the water delivered to lands under the irrigation system below Boulder Dam in the United States.