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Director General, Medical Services.

P.A.  
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POLLUTION - YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.

Your recent letter to Mr. Yates raises questions about likely contamination of the waters of Yellowknife Bay and refers to engineering problems in relation to the design and construction of a pipeline under water to Yellowknife. Our public health engineers recommended that the intake be in the Yellowknife River and they are concerned about your intimation that the pipeline would be constructed from Yellowknife Bay rather than from the Yellowknife River. If their recommendation is heeded, contamination in Yellowknife Bay will be less important since the river flow will exclude waters of the bay from the intake.

The question of the route the pipeline is to follow would be decided after a decision is made to build. Engineers would prepare plans and make recommendations. The problem of seepage of bay waters into the line would not become a problem if it were built along the shore. It appears pointless to speculate prematurely about what might occur if a certain route were followed until a definite plan is developed.

As pointed out in a previous letter, it would be preferable if liaison with officials in Northern Affairs could be conducted by this office. This will enable us to co-ordinate the various points of view in the Headquarters area.

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H. A. Procter, Ph.D., M.D.

cc: Mr. W. R. Edmonds, P.H.E.,  
Mr. A. B. Yates, I.A.M.D.

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