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		Concise Series	A

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Division of Atomic Energy Research

XXXXXXXXXX
Chalk River, Ontario.
24 February, 1948.

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[Redacted]

Dear Cockcroft, French Heavy Water

In reply to your letter of 11th February, it seems to me preferable to suggest compensating the French for the heavy water and I would suggest the following points in support.

1. The French heavy water is not identifiable as such since it has all been reprocessed at Trail. The polymer which would be made available is therefore the normal output from Trail.
2. It happens that the U.S. has still not agreed to declassify the standard composition of the heavy water from Trail although we do not see any particular significance in this.
3. We could not ship the material in the original French containers.
4. The French are understood to be receiving the bulk of the Norwegian output, which is estimated at between 2,000 to 3,000 pounds per month. They should therefore be able readily to make good any shortage of heavy water they are experiencing within a time short compared with the time necessary to arrange a special shipment from this country.
5. We have to determine a figure for the amount of the French heavy water. We are proposing to have a physical stock taking in the near future, which should give us such a figure. It is unlikely, however, that the weight of the French polymer will be as much as 300 pounds.
6. We have a need for stocks of heavy water to which we can have an absolute title and have therefore been considering the purchase of heavy water.

7. We should have to make special shipping arrangements, supplying containers, etc. which would be rather expensive and such special action would be avoided if the French were to get their extra heavy water from Norway where routine arrangements must exist.

I am not in a position to say what figure Canada would pay for the French heavy water. I am referring the matter to Dr. Mackenzie suggesting that this should be in the neighbourhood of \$40.00 to \$50.00 per pound.

Yours sincerely,

WBL/ac
cc C. J. Mackenzie

W. B. Lewis

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VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR BAG