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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 27, 1977

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MISS HELEN M. TOMASCIK
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

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Dear Mr. President:

As a long time student of Isthmian Canal and defense policy questions, I have viewed with deep concern the current indications that your Administration is pushing ahead on the projected give away treaty for the U.S. Canal Zone and Panama Canal. In the Congress, the Canal issue is fundamental and thus transcends all partisan considerations.

Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford, misled by poor advice, all made serious errors in regard to it. You are making a fresh start and there is every reason to avoid their mistakes, which could well be your "Bay of Pigs" and prevent your renomination or re-election.

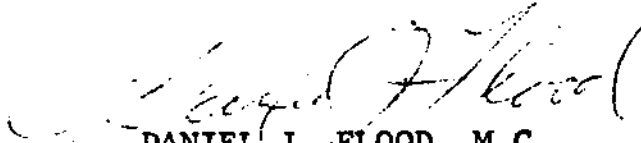
In the opinion of our most experienced engineers and other ship canal experts, the solution of the canal problem is simple: (1) retention by the United States of its full sovereign rights, power and authority over the indispensable Canal Zone; and (2) the major modernization of the existing canal according to the Terminal Lake-Third Lock Plan. This plan was developed in the Panama Canal organization during World War II and won the approval of President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a post war project. The old idea of a sea level canal is irrelevant and strongly opposed by major conservation organizations, as well as engineers, because of the danger of infesting the Atlantic with the poisonous Pacific sea snake and the crown of thorns starfish as well as the other factors.

The attached measures, H. Res. 92 and H. R. 1587, are aimed at clarifying and making definite the sovereign position of the United States over the Canal Zone and at authorizing the Canal's major modernization. I believe that I reflect the predominant view in the Congress that, in line with our historic policy, it will never approve the large expenditures involved except in territory over which the United States has full sovereign control.

I wish to add that the Panama Canal, as originally planned in 1906 under President Theodore Roosevelt, was never completed. H.R. 1587 would complete the work of that great President, render a tremendous service to world shipping, simplify canal management enormously, cause huge benefits to Panama, and bring great credit to your Administration.

With assurances of esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours,


DANIEL J. FLOOD, M.C.

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