

December 14, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 3308 - Icebreaking Operations - which authorizes the Coast Guard to conduct icebreaking operations pursuant to international agreement in foreign waters.

The bill will amend the Coast Guard icebreaking authority to authorize icebreaking operations in foreign waters, i.e., waters other than the high seas or waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, when those operations are undertaken pursuant to international agreement. The bill will not be self-executing. Specific international agreements will have to be provided before icebreaking operations can be carried out. The purpose of the bill is to enable the development of specific U.S. - Canadian arrangements to facilitate coordination of icebreaking operations. It will enable the authorities to use U.S. and Canadian equipment more flexibly than under the present system where U.S. equipment may not be used in Canadian waters even when it is much closer and more appropriate to the particular task than the nearest Canadian equipment.

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The President has signed S. 3546 - Time extension, bridge agreement between Illinois and Missouri - which extends for one year, until June 1, 1975, the time within which Illinois and Missouri can reach agreement with respect to the operation of a bridge connecting the two States.

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