

The Columbia River Treaty should be viewed, therefore, as a greatly significant effort toward the advancement of regional and national energy programmes that include not only the idea of regional and national electrical energy interchanges and grids, but perhaps even more urgently, the exploitation of hydro power resources wherever the Canadian potential and United States markets can accommodate each country's needs and interests.

5. The Making of the Treaty - Historical Summary

In 1944, the Governments of Canada and the United States requested the International Joint Commission (I.J.C.) to undertake investigations to determine whether further development of the water resources of the Columbia River basin would be practical and advantageous to both countries. The Commission, which is a body established under the Boundary Waters Treaty, 1909 to deal with various matters including questions relating to waters that cross the international boundary, established the International Columbia River Engineering Board (I.C.R.E.B.) to undertake the Columbia River investigations. The Board submitted its report in 1959 and indicated that there were a number of sites in Canada suitable for the construction of large storage reservoirs that could be used to regulate the Columbia River for the benefit of both the United States and Canada. The Board presented three development plans of almost equal merit, but did not attempt to indicate how those plans could be developed in a step by step approach or how the benefits of those plans should be divided between the two countries.

In January 1959, the two governments requested the I.J.C. to make a special report on principles for the calculation and apportionment of the benefits which would result from a cooperative development of the Columbia River basin. The Commission submitted its recommendations to the governments in December 1959. The next phase began on February 11, 1960, with the commencement of direct negotiations between representatives of Canada and the United States concerning the selection, construction, and cooperative use of specific projects. These negotiations led to the signing of the Columbia River Treaty on January 17, 1961, at Washington, D. C.

On March 16, 1961, the United States Senate adopted a resolution approving the Treaty. However, ratification did not take place in Canada and following the Hyannis Port meetings between President Kennedy and Prime Minister Pearson in the spring of 1963 formal negotiations resumed between the two countries. At the same time the first of a new series of meetings between representatives of the governments of British Columbia and Canada was held in Ottawa on June 3 and 4 and produced a draft agreement outlining the respective responsibilities of the two governments in the development of the Columbia River. The Main Agreement was signed on July 8, 1963 (a Supplementary Agreement was signed on January 13, 1964).

The Canadian-United States negotiators held their initial 1963 meeting in Ottawa on August 1 and 2, when consideration was given to a