



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1960

OPENING OF WARSACK IRRIGATION TUNNEL

ON JANUARY 10, 1960 THE SENIOR CABINET MINISTER OF THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY OPENED THE IRRIGATION TUNNEL OF THE WARSACK MULTI-PURPOSE PROJECT, WHICH IS BEING CONSTRUCTED AND FINANCED JOINTLY BY PAKISTAN AND CANADA UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN. SITUATED IN NORTHWEST PAKISTAN NEAR THE KHYBER PASS, THE WARSACK PROJECT ENVISAGES DAMMING THE KABUL RIVER FOR THE FIRST TIME AND UTILIZING THE FLOW TO PRODUCE 160,000 KILOWATTS HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER AND TO IRRIGATE 100,000 ACRES OF LAND. THE COMPLETION OF THE 3 1/2 MILE IRRIGATION TUNNEL MEANS THAT SOME OF THE KABUL RIVER FLOW CAN NOW BE DIVERTED THROUGH THE SOLID ROCK WALL OF THE GORGE TO THE NEARBY PARCHED PLAINS AND MAKE THEM AGRICULTURALLY PRODUCTIVE. WHEN THE DAM AND POWER-HOUSE PHASE OF THE WARSACK PROJECT ARE FINISHED LATER THIS YEAR, THIS WILL BRING TO COMPLETION CANADAS LARGEST COLOMBO PLAN PROJECT ANYWHERE (THE CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION BEING SOMETHING OVER \$36 MILLION), AND MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY OF PAKISTAN.

TO MARK CANADAS INTEREST IN THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF THE PROJECT, THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN PAKISTAN ATTENDED THE TUNNEL OPENING CEREMONY AND CONVEYED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE H. C. GREEN, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS "I WISH TO EXPRESS TO THE WARSACK DAM PROJECT ORGANIZATION AND THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN MY SINCERE GOOD WISHES ON THE OPENING OF THE IRRIGATION TUNNEL OF THE WARSACK