



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 1959

MEKONG AERIAL SURVEY

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE HON. HOWARD GREEN ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA ON THE 19TH OF OCTOBER 1959, BETWEEN CANADA AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF THAILAND, CAMBODIA, LAOS AND SOUTH VIETNAM TO PROVIDE FOR CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN A SURVEY OF THE MEKONG RIVER BASIN. THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED ON BEHALF OF CANADA BY MR. D'IBERVILLE FORTIER, CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MEKONG CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE.

PARLIAMENT WAS INFORMED ON MARCH 12, 1959 OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT INITIATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST FOR INVESTIGATION OF THE RESOURCES OF THE MEKONG RIVER BASIN IN LAOS, CAMBODIA, VIETNAM AND THAILAND. ALL THESE SOUTH-EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES ARE MEMBERS OF THE COLOMBO PLAN AND CANADIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PROJECT IS BEING PROVIDED AS PART OF CANADA'S COLOMBO PLAN PROGRAMME. THE EVENTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEKONG RIVER WILL BENEFIT THE FOUR RIPARIAN STATES IN THE FORM OF FLOOD CONTROL, IRRIGATION, HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER AND IMPROVED NAVIGATION.

THE CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE MEKONG BASIN PROJECT WILL TAKE THE FORM OF AERIAL SURVEY AND MAPPING OF THE LOWER MEKONG RIVER AND SOME OF ITS TRIBUTARIES. THE AGREEMENT SIGNED IN PHNOM PENH OCTOBER 19TH, SETS OUT IN DETAIL THE WORK CANADA HAS UNDERTAKEN

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