



# PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, will arrive in Calcutta on Monday, October 24, for a visit to India while on his return journey from the Singapore meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee.

After a two-day stay in Calcutta, he will visit Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Benares. He will be in New Delhi from November 3 to 6 where he will hold talks with the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, and other Government leaders. While in New Delhi he will address the Indian Council of World Affairs.

One of the highlights of the program which is being arranged for Mr. Pearson by the Indian Government will be his attendance on November 1 at the formal opening of the Mayurakshi Power and Irrigation project in West Bengal. As Canada has provided capital assistance for this scheme in the Colombo Plan, the Indian authorities have asked him to officiate at the opening ceremonies. This marks the first occasion that a Foreign Minister has been asked to open one of the development projects of India's economic program.

Mayurakshi, which is one of the high-priority projects in India's current Five-Year Plan, is a multi-purpose scheme designed to irrigate 600,000 acres of land and to generate 4,000 kilowatts of electric power which is needed to develop small industries in the area, especially those of the cottage type.

The Indian Government has borne a large share of the cost of this project. To help them meet some of the local construction costs, Canada has agreed that counterpart funds might be used totalling about \$17 million arising from the disposal of wheat and locomotive boilers previously provided to India under the Colombo Plan.

Canada has co-operated with India on a number of other important undertakings and discussions are now taking place with regard to further Canadian participation in other development projects to which India attaches high priority in her second Five-Year Plan.

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