

## CANADA-U.S. DAM AGREEMENT

On March 25, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, and the United States Ambassador to Canada, Mr. W. Walton Butterworth, signed an agreement between their governments concerning the establishment of an international arbitral tribunal to dispose of United States claims relating to Gut Dam.

### BACKGROUND

These claims arose in 1951 and 1952. At that time, there were unusually high water-levels in Lake Ontario. Residents of the United States owning real estate on the south shore of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence complained that these levels were attributable in whole or in part to the construction by the Government of Canada of a small navigation improvement in the international section of the river known as "Gut Dam".

The construction of Gut Dam was carried out at the beginning of the century pursuant to arrangements entered into between the Canadian and United States Governments of that day. Gut Dam itself was removed in 1953 as part of the St. Lawrence Seaway construction programme.

The position the Government of Canada has maintained from the first is that there is no basis, either in law or in fact, for these claims. The claimants, took their dispute before the courts in the United States, where the suits were rejected on procedural grounds without their merits having been examined.

### YEARS OF NEGOTIATION

Over the years, inter-governmental negotiations have been in progress with the United States on an intermittent basis with a view to finding a fair solution. The agreement now signed represents the successful results of these negotiations. Under its terms, the United States claimants will be afforded the opportunity to have their cases heard and disposed of on their merits. Any award made by the tribunal will be final and binding on both governments. The Government of Canada is not at present in possession of any precise figure on the aggregate amount of these claims, but it is believed they will run into millions of dollars.

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### JAPANESE BEAUTY TOURS CANADA

Hiroko Koba, Miss Japan-Canada Friendship, arrived in Vancouver on March 19 bearing personal greetings from the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Eisaku Sato, to Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson. She then set off on a whirlwind three-week tour of Canada. "I am sure this tour... brief as it must be, will contribute materially toward a better knowledge in Japan of Canada and its trade and travel resources", said Trade Minister Mitchell Sharp. "At the same time, it will serve to bring Japan and the Japanese people into sharper focus for Canadians."

During her visit, Miss Japan-Canada Friendship met provincial and municipal dignitaries, civic officials, university faculties and students and others prominent in the daily life of Canada.

Seven Japanese leaders distinguished in the cultural, educational and trade fields, with the

Canadian Ambassador to Japan, Mr. R.P. Bower, and Canada's Minister (Commercial) in Tokyo, Mr. R.G.C. Smith, selected Miss Koba from entrants nominated by universities, business firms and other organizations. More than a thousand nominations had been received when entries closed on February 19. Nearly 80 per cent of the entrants were graduates or under-graduates of Japanese colleges or junior colleges.

Miss Koba was accompanied on her Canadian tour by a corps of Japanese newspaper, magazine and television commentators and cameramen, who reported back to their homeland on Canadian affairs as they saw them.

The Japanese group visited Vancouver, Banff, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Edmonton and Victoria. Through the co-operation of provincial officials, the Canada-Japan Trade Council, the Canada-Japan Association, the Japanese-Canadian Cultural Centre and various civic bodies, the party had a full programme of activities in each city they visited.

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### TELEPHONES OF GOVERNMENT

Canada's more than 40,000 government telephones, which the Glassco Commission recently termed "status symbols" rather than the tools they should be, are in for a complete overhaul, the Department of Transport announced recently. The department, charged with co-ordinating all government telecommunications planning, has taken over the Government Telephone Service Office from the Treasury Board and integrated it with its new Administrative Telecommunications Agency (ATA).

The co-ordinating and control functions of the former Government Telephone Service Office will be augmented by the technical capabilities of the ATA. The new agency will strive for improved efficiency in telecommunications by using the most modern methods and techniques.

The multiple needs of various government departments will be consolidated wherever economies can be effected without hampering service.

### DIRECT-CALL SERVICE

Modern inter-city services will give federal offices in Ottawa direct calling to most places in Canada and, in the process, save the Government about \$250,000 a year. Several exchanges in Montreal have already been consolidated into one, and direct inter-connections will soon be possible between it and Ottawa's 22,000 government telephones, by the use of special facilities provided by the telephone company.

Discussions are under way with the British Columbia Telephone Company to see how all government exchanges on the West Coast can benefit most from the consolidation of services in Vancouver and Victoria.

The ATA is also expected to advise government departments on the most efficient arrangements and use of other forms of telecommunications, such as teletype and data transmission and, to this end, will work closely with the telegraph and telephone companies.