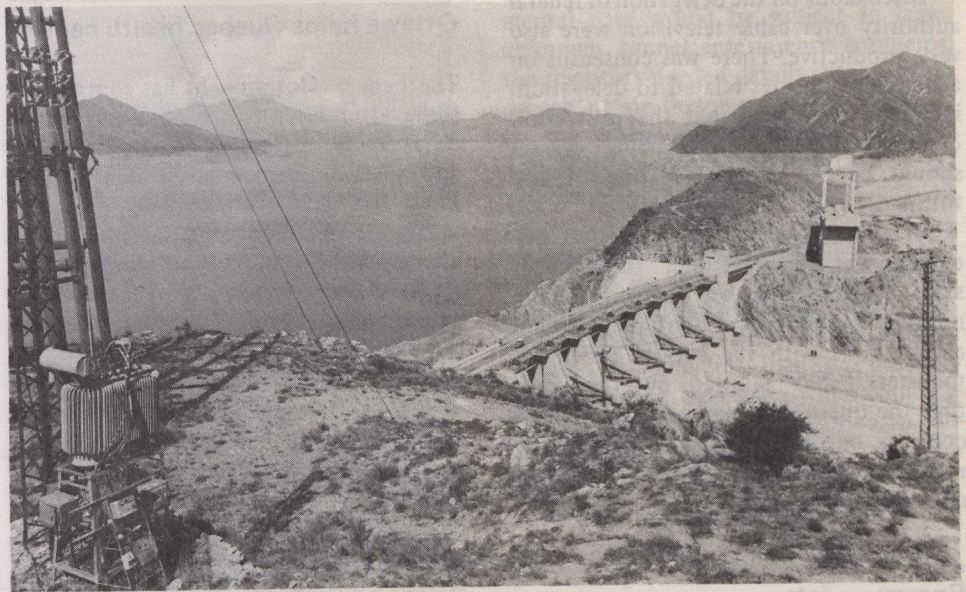


Canada supports Pakistan's hydro project, extends credit

Canada will make available up to \$80 million through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to help boost Pakistan's hydro-electric power generating capacity and to provide a line of credit for the purchase of Canadian manufactured goods.

The largest of three development loans, signed recently in Islamabad, provides \$40 million for the purchase of four 175-megawatt Canadian generating units for the Tarbela Dam on the Indus River. Tarbela, the world's largest earth and rock-filled dam, is a billion-dollar project co-ordinated by the World Bank and financed by several donor countries. It is designed to irrigate about 400,000 hectares (a million acres) of new farmland, while also providing about half of Pakistan's power requirements by 1985.

Canada previously contributed a total of \$43 million to the Tarbela Development Fund. The new agreement will finance units five to eight of what will ultimately be a 12-unit installation. The Asian Development Bank is financing civil works and additional equipment for the current phase of the Tarbela expan-



Reservoir and part of the Tarbela Dam on the Indus River in Pakistan.

CIDA

sion.

A second loan of up to \$10 million will cover Canada's contribution to an international fund to meet the unexpected cost of repairs and operational modifications to the dam.

The third agreement, a \$30-million development line of credit, will allow Pakistan to purchase \$10-million worth of Canadian equipment, spare parts and

services in each of the next three years (1978-79 to 1980-81). The line of credit will strengthen Pakistan's industrial, transport, energy, and other priority sectors while helping the country cope with a difficult balance-of-payments problem.

All three agreements are on the same terms as most CIDA development loans: interest-free, and repayable over 50 years, with ten years' grace.

France and Canada begin joint studies on housing

The first meeting of the joint steering committee following the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between Canada's Ministry of State for Urban Affairs and France's Ministère de l'Équipement, was held recently in Canada. The Memorandum, signed last June, covers the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge in urban affairs and housing.

Committee members, who held sessions in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, agreed on the following areas for the exchange of information and joint studies:

- restoration of residential buildings;
- housing assistance;
- improvement of downtown areas;
- definition of airport-noise zones;
- energy and habitat: thermal insulation, new energy sources and building materials;
- comparative construction costs in Canada and France;
- human-settlements issues under study by international organizations.

Provinces co-operate, urge new communications legislation

Federal-provincial co-operation in the field of communications was never so evident as it was at present, Minister of Communications Jeanne Sauvé said at the end of a meeting of federal and provincial communications ministers in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on March 29.

"I regard the meeting as an historic one, since it reaffirms the positive and co-operative approach to the resolution of federal-provincial communications matters which began with the previous meeting last year in Edmonton," she said.

"Before 1976, federal-provincial relations in the communications field were contentious at best. I was pleased with the progress we made in Edmonton, but regretted the absence of the Quebec Minister of Communications at that meeting." This time, she said all provincial governments were represented and there was a considerable degree of agreement on most of the items under discussion.

Mrs. Sauvé said the meeting had been marked by an atmosphere of goodwill and co-operation on the part of all provincial ministers. "Indeed, because we succeeded in reaching a consensus on so many of the items under discussion, we were able to finish a day earlier than planned."

The Minister expressed particular satisfaction that her provincial colleagues strongly supported the new federal communications legislation, introduced as Bill C-24 on January 26, 1978. "Not only did the provinces support the bill," she said, "but they urged its passage by Parliament as soon as possible."

Discussions on the question of pay-television were extremely valuable, she went on, particularly in the light of the recently-published CRTC report. "There was a wide range of views expressed by provincial ministers on the need for its introduction at this time, and provincial views will constitute an important contribution to the development of a pay-television policy for Canada." (over)