

Columbia River Development

New agreements of far-reaching importance regarding the development of the Columbia River were announced on January 22, 1964, by the governments of British Columbia, Canada and the United States. Following the signing of the agreements at the White House in Washington, D.C., the United States President and the Canadian Prime Minister issued this statement:

President Johnson and Prime Minister Pearson presided today at the White House at the signing of further important agreements between the two Governments regarding the co-operative development of the water resources of the Columbia River basin. Mr. Rusk, Secretary of State, signed for the United States, and Mr. Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, signed for Canada.

The arrangements which are now being made will be of great benefit to both countries, particularly to the Province of British Columbia in Canada and to the States of Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon in the United States. Today's signing took place in the presence of representatives of the area on both sides of the border.

Original Treaty Terms

The Treaty of January 17, 1961, provides for effective regulation of the flow from the Canadian portion of the Columbia River for flood control and increased power production in the United States, as well as for benefits in Canada. The downstream power benefits resulting from increased generation in the United States are to be shared by the two countries, and the United States is to compensate Canada for the flood protection which it receives. Effective storage, amounting to 15,500,000 acre feet, will be provided in Canada from two dams on the main stem of the Columbia at Mica Creek and Arrow Lakes, and from one dam near Duncan Lake, all in British Columbia. The additional storage approximately doubles that presently available for regulation of the flows of the Columbia River.

Under the terms of the Treaty, the United States has the option to commence construction of the Libby project on the Kootenai River in northern Montana with 5,000,000 acre feet of usable storage. Canada and the United States each will retain all of the benefits from the Libby project which accrue in their respective countries.

Hyannis Port Decisions

At the Hyannis Port meeting in May 1963, President Kennedy and Prime Minister Pearson

... noted especially the desirability of early progress on the co-operative development of the Columbia River. The Prime Minister indicated that, if certain clarifications and adjustments in arrangements proposed earlier could be agreed on, to be included in a protocol