

Seaway construction programme.

The position which 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 their suits were rejected on procedural grounds without the Courts having gone into the merits.

Over the years intergovernmental negotiations have been in progress with the United States on an intermittent basis with a view to finding a fair solution. The Agreement signed today represents the successful results of these negotiations. Under the terms of this Agreement the United States claimants will be afforded the opportunity to have their claims 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 in possession at this time of any precise figure as to the aggregate amount of these claims, but it is believed they will run into the millions of dollars.

As provided for in the Agreement the international arbitral Tribunal, which will be known as the "Lake Ontario Claims Tribunal United States and Canada", will consist of the Chairman and two national members. One nation member will be appointed by the Government of Canada and the other by the Government of the United States; a third member, who will preside over the Tribunal as Chairman will be designated jointly by the two Governments.

There are also on record complaints concerning damage allegedly attributable to Gut Dam from residents of Canada owning