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Historic pipeline plan approved by Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Carter

"The largest single private energy project in history" was how United States President Jimmy Carter described the construction by Canada and the U.S. of the Alcan-Foothills Pipeline, which he and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau approved in principle in Washington on September 8.

In a joint statement issued after their meeting, the two leaders said: "We have decided to embark together on this historic project which holds the promise of great benefits to both countries, and which confirms anew the strength of the ties that link us."

Canadian route preferred

The pipeline route chosen will carry Alaskan natural gas along the Alaska Highway through Canada to the lower 48 U.S. states. Mr. Carter said that the cost (estimated at \$10 billion), would be "significantly lower" than the El Paso system — through Alaska and by ship to California — which the U.S. had also been considering.

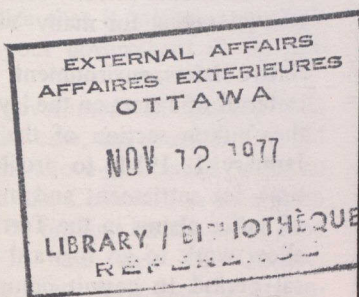
The pipeline will deliver more than 3.5 billion cubic feet a day of Alaskan, and later on of Canadian gas to both coun-

tries, said Mr. Carter, adding that it would save over \$5 billion over the first 20 years to American consumers. "The Alcan line is preferable to the El Paso line...because it is more economical, it's safer and does less damage to the environment.... The project will benefit Canada by facilitating development of its own gas reserves, particularly in the frontier region of the Mackenzie Delta area," he said.

The agreement, which would be signed "next week" by Privy Council President Allan MacEachen and U.S. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger, chief negotiators, would be submitted to the respective legislative bodies for authorization.

It was agreed in principle not to build the diversion to Dawson originally required by the National Energy Board but, in exchange, the U.S. would share the cost of a lateral line that would connect with the main line at Whitehorse in the Yukon. This would provide economic access to Canadian gas in the Mackenzie Delta, as and when it is required, to meet Canadian energy needs.

Total length of the main pipeline would be almost 5,000 miles — 731 miles in Alaska, about 2,000 through Canada



Mr. Trudeau (left) and Mr. Carter are happy to announce their agreement in principle on the construction of the Alcan-Foothills Pipeline, in Washington on September 8.

UPI wirephoto

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