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INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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Wednesday, December 23, 1953

Mr. Pearson In London: London, Dec. 22 (Reuters) -- Mr. Pearson left tonight by Trans-Canada Air Lines for Montreal. He came to London after attending the North Atlantic Treaty meeting last week in Paris.

Before his departure, Mr. Pearson told reporters he agrees with State Secretary Dulles of the United States that the Russian reaction to President Eisenhower's invitation to a conference on atomic energy seems "hopeful".

In an interview at Canada House he described the Paris talks as covering the problems of the European Defence Community fully and frankly.

While in London, Mr. Pearson officiated as Santa Claus for children of Canadian Government employees at a Christmas party and attended a dinner given by Foreign Secretary Eden.

He also held talks with senior officials of the Commonwealth Relations Office and the Foreign Office.

Mr. Henry Borden On Brazil Power Programme: Toronto, Dec. 22 (CP) -- Mr. Henry Borden, President of Brazilian Traction, Light and Power Company, said today it does not surprise him "that the President of Brazil should propose an over-all federal power programme to meet the needs of Brazil as a whole".

He said his attention had been drawn to press reports of remarks attributed to President Getulio Vargas concerning the need of a federal Government programme for increasing the production of electric power in Brazil....

Mr. Borden said Brazil, since the end of the war, has been going through a tremendous industrial expansion and this had resulted in a drastic shortage of power in certain areas. Moreover, the shortage had been aggravated by abnormally low rainfall resulting in unprecedented shortages of water.

Bond Sales End Dec. 31: Ottawa, Dec. 21 (Dept. of Finance) -- The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, announced today that the sale of Eighth Series Canada Savings Bonds will be discontinued on December 31, 1953, but pointed out that applications made prior to December 31 with arrangements for deferred payment, are not affected.

Mr. Abbott said that the record sale of the Eighth Series - now in excess of \$860 million - was highly gratifying. It was convincing evidence that Canada Savings Bonds have become an important factor in the savings plans of a great many Canadian families. While it has been the case in past series that bonds have remained on sale until August 31 of the following year, experience has shown that approximately 90% of the sales have been made by December 31.

Gold Mine Strike Settlement Imminent: Timmins, Ont., Dec. 22 (CP) -- Some 1,500 miners at Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines will vote Sunday night on whether to accept an agreement reached at Toronto today between the United Steelworkers of America (CIO-CCL) and the company.

If ratified, it would end a 12-week strike of 1,500 members of the United Steelworkers of America (CIO-CCL) and might provide a pattern for settlements which would put another 4,200 miners back at work in this area and Northwestern Quebec.

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