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## JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER

Mr. Howard Green, the Acting Prime Minister of Canada, has announced that steps are to be taken at once to complete an agreement with the United States which will make possible the co-operative development of the Columbia River.

The text of his statement is as follows:

"The Government has now received a report from a Committee of senior officials under the chairmanship of General A.G.L. McNaughton, set up in December 1957 to conduct economic studies of the potential development of the Columbia River including principles for the division of downstream benefits.

"Steps are to be taken at once to complete an agreement with the United States which will make possible the co-operative development of the river, based on co-ordinated operations, but retaining Canadian ownership and control of projects built on the river in Canada.

"The Government believes that the Canadian and American sections of the International Joint Commission should be instructed by the respective governments to work out methods for determining and apportioning both the downstream benefits from water stored upstream and the value of such storage for flood control. Preliminary discussions along this line have already been held by the Commission and progress has been made toward reaching a solution of this problem.

"Development of the Columbia in the manner

contemplated will mean tremendous expansion in the Kootenay and Okanagan Districts of British Columbia which could not be equalled or so accelerated otherwise. Furthermore, the postponement of such development in favour of some other power scheme could well result in making the development of the Columbia River in Canada impossible.

"In addition, the Government is of the opinion that the early development of the Columbia River will be of great benefit to the lower mainland of British Columbia. It is estimated that with downstream benefits of half the additional energy produced in existing United States plants as a result of regulated flow of storage in Canada, the cost of power in the Vancouver area from downstream benefits together with power from a plant at Mica Creek would average less than 4 mills per kilowatt hour which is far cheaper than power available from any other source in British Columbia in similar large quantities.

"It should be pointed out that the Speech from the Throne on October 14, 1957, contained this paragraph:

"My Ministers are pressing for a favourable settlement of international problems in connection with the Columbia River to clear the way for a joint programme with the province of British Columbia to develop the immense power in the waters of this river'. This policy still stands".