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PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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Canadian Maintenance Engineer to Pakistan

The Department of External Affairs announced today the appointment, under the Colombo Plan, of Mr. John A. Forster of Victoria, B.C., as an electrical-mechanical maintenance engineer to assist the Government of Pakistan.

Mr. Forster will be a member of a team of Canadian hydro engineers advising on the initial operation of the Warsak hydro-electric project on the Kabul River in north-west Pakistan near the Afghanistan border. The Warsak Project, to which Canada has contributed \$36.6 million, represents Canada's largest single Colombo Plan assistance in the field of power development. The inaugural ceremony of the dam and power plant is expected to take place in the near future.

Mr. Forster was born in England and received his education at the Sunderland Junior Technical School and the Sunderland Technical College in the county of Durham. He worked for many years with the British Broadcasting Corporation, resigning his post as senior maintenance engineer in 1950 in order to come to Canada. He was employed for nearly six years by the English Electric (Canada) Company in St. Catherines, Ontario, as the Western Resident Service Engineer. Later he became Maintenance Control Engineer for the British Columbia Power Commission, from which position he has now been granted a leave-of-absence. Mr. Forster is an associate member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers (Britain) and is a member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. He is also a registered professional engineer in the Provinces of Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

Accompanied by his wife and son, Mr. Forster left by air for Pakistan on November 1, where he and his family expect to remain for at least a year.