

FOR RELEASE AT 12.30 P.M., E.S.T.,
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1964.

Following is the text of a statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, on the signing of the Columbia River documents:

The event which has just taken place today represents the culmination of a great deal of hard work by many people stretching over 20 years. These investigations and negotiations have involved successive Governments, federal and provincial, in Canada and in the United States and all of them have made their contribution over the years to the final agreements. As the principal negotiator for the federal government during the later stages, I am glad to give full credit to those who have been responsible for the negotiations on both sides at earlier times. We have kept the best of the past achievements while adding improvements of our own.

Since last May when I was put in charge of the negotiations for Canada, I have given a great deal of attention to this subject and have regarded it as having a very high priority among my responsibilities. We have had a large number of meetings of the federal group and joint meetings with the B.C. representatives, as well as the numerous negotiating sessions and working parties with the U.S. Within the Federal Government, Canadian Ministers concerned have used all the advice available from the different Departments experienced in dealing with engineering, financial and agricultural matters and with international negotiations. We have also benefited greatly from the advice of the British Columbia authorities on many technical and local aspects. In addition, we have drawn on the services of private experts as required.

We have also derived benefit from the constructive criticisms which private Canadian citizens have made. In fact, we ourselves in the present Government were among the critics of