



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

ADVANCE: NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST BEFORE 11:00 A.M.

E.S.T. THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1959.

NO. 8

THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA HAVE BEEN ENGAGING IN DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO THE MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS DEVELOPMENT OF THE WATERS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN WHICH CROSS THE BOUNDARY.

IN THE COURSE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS IT HAS SEEMED DESIRABLE TO PURSUE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE THE EXPLORATION OF THE VARIOUS TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WHICH BEAR ON THE FORMULATION OF COMPREHENSIVE PRINCIPLES. FOR THAT PURPOSE AND TO IMPLEMENT SUCH DISCUSSIONS THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT IDENTICAL LETTERS WERE SENT TODAY BY EACH GOVERNMENT TO THE TWO SECTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION REQUESTING THE COMMISSION TO REPORT SPECIALLY TO GOVERNMENTS AT AN EARLY DATE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE PRINCIPLES TO BE APPLIED IN DETERMINING:

- (A) THE BENEFITS WHICH WILL RESULT FROM THE CO-OPERATIVE USE OF STORAGE OF WATERS AND ELECTRICAL INTER-CONNECTION WITHIN THE COLUMBIA RIVER SYSTEM; AND
- (B) THE APPORTIONMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES OF SUCH BENEFITS MORE PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO ELECTRICAL GENERATION AND FLOOD CONTROL.

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THIS REQUEST WAS MADE IN FURTHERANCE OF THE REFERENCE OF 1944 TO THE COMMISSION ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR AN EARLY REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION ON THE SPECIFIC PROBLEM OF THE ALLOCATION OF BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM THE CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER SYSTEM.

THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLUMBIA RIVER ENGINEERING BOARD WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION EARLY IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR AND WILL BE CONSIDERED AT A MEETING WHICH WILL BE HELD IN CAMERA IN CHICAGO BEGINNING MARCH 16.

IN THE MEANTIME, VARIOUS RELATED MATTERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE DISCUSSED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

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