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CANADA AND UNITED STATES SIGN SKAGIT RIVER TREATY

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced that he and United States Secretary of State, the Honourable George Shultz, today signed, on behalf of the Canadian and United States Governments, the Treaty Between Canada and the United States of America Relating to the Skagit River and Ross Lake, and the Seven Mile Reservoir on the Pend d'Oreille River - known as the Skagit River Treaty. The Treaty was signed at the conclusion of two days of the latest in the regular bilateral meetings between Mr. MacEachen and his USA counterpart. Distinguished witnesses of the signing of the Treaty included Senator Jack Austin, Canadian Minister of State for Social Development, the Honourable John Fraser, M.P., the Honourable Garde Gardom, British Columbia Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Senators Evans and Gorton from Washington State, Commissioners Olson and Bulen of the International Joint Commission, representatives of the Province of British Columbia and the City of Seattle, as well as those who took part in the negotiations leading to the settlement.

The Skagit River settlement package involves three documents - the Treaty, a British Columbia-Seattle Agreement and a Canada-British Columbia Agreement. The settlement marks the successful resolution of longstanding Canadian concerns over the proposal to raise the Ross Dam in the State of Washington flooding the Skagit River Valley to supply electricity to the City of Seattle, which had been given international sanction in 1942. The Treaty was negotiated under the aegis of a Joint

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Consultative Group on the Skagit chaired by Commissioners Olson (Canada) and Bulen (USA) of the International Joint Commission, which included representatives of the Governments of Canada, the USA, British Columbia, as well as the City of Seattle.

The Skagit River Treaty, together with related implementing Agreements involving the City of Seattle, the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada, will be in force for a period of 80 years and ensures that flooding of the Skagit Valley into British Columbia will not take place. In return, B.C. will supply electric power to the City of Seattle equivalent to that which would have been generated had the Ross Dam been raised. As payment for the electrical power, B.C. will receive payments equivalent to the cost of building and maintaining the dam.

The signing ceremony represents acceptance by both Governments of the Treaty and opens the way for the Canadian and United States Governments to initiate the legislative and ratification processes necessary for the Treaty to enter into force.