

# PRESS RELEASE



# COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

NO. 8

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JANUARY 27, 1966.

## UNITED STATES TO BUILD LIBBY DAM

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. Paul Martin, today announced that the United States Government has exercised the option given it by the Columbia River Treaty to build the Libby Dam on the Kootenai River in the United States.

In a Note delivered at Ottawa, United States Ambassador W. Walton Butterworth notified the Government of Canada of his Government's intention to commence construction on the project by June 30 of this year. The terms of the Treaty require that the dam be in full operation within seven years of the date specified for commencement of construction.

While the Libby Dam will be located on the Kootenai River in Montana, the reservoir formed by the dam will extend 42 miles into Canada, flooding some 13,700 acres of land in the East Kootenay Valley of British Columbia.

Under the terms of the Treaty which was ratified on September 16, 1964, the Government of Canada will provide the necessary reservoir area in Canada. This responsibility, including any costs involved, has in turn been accepted by the Government of British Columbia through the Canada-British

Columbia Agreement of July 8, 1963. In return for the provision of the required reservoir area, this country will receive both substantial power and flood control benefits on the reach of the Kootenay in Canada downstream of the Libby Dam. The regulation provided by the Libby Dam will remove the annual flood hazard from the Creston Plate farming area in British Columbia and will provide a potential gain of approximately 200,000 kw of low cost power on the section of river in Canada downstream of Kootenay Lake. These benefits are additional to the power and flood control benefits resulting from other parts of the Columbia River Development for which Canada receives payments from the United States.

The total cost of the Libby project is estimated at \$352,000,000. It will be constructed at U.S. expense by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.