

LATEST ON KARIBA:

Looking back to the unprecedented floods which wrought such havoc at Kariba, our Portuguese neighbours suffered even greater personal losses as towns and villages were inundated by a Zambesi gone berserk. It is to be hoped that such devastation will become a thing of the past when the great Kariba Lake acts as a buffer to take up sudden rises in the head waters of the Zambesi. Meanwhile of course the Zambesi has subsided and engineers at Kariba are now concerned with emptying the coffer dam to save it. Although the crisis is over, the river is still extremely high, and the greatest efforts will be called for to complete the Hydro Electric scheme in time to meet the 1960 deadline. Past set backs have certainly made it a race against time. Can it be ready when Hydro-Electric Power from the Congo is withdrawn? At present this source of power is brought into the switching station at Kitwe and distributed from there. Kitwe will still distribute power from Kariba when it replaces the Hydro-Electric power from Jadotville in the Belgian Congo. The entire Kitwe set up has been designed with an eye to the future. The output is taken care of, but the change of input is now receiving urgent attention. To carry power the 250 miles from Kariba to Kitwe, steel towers are being erected to support the high tension cables. The towers are 133 feet high and spaced 500 yards apart. As much as possible is done on the ground, but like everything else connected with Kariba, the erection of the towers alone is a big project. About 970 of them will be required to cover the 250 miles, and a 70 yard strip of bush has had to be cleared over the same distance. These figures all add up to a pretty tremendous minor detail in a mind boggling giant project.