

FEDERAL POWER BOARD

(ESTABLISHED UNDER THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 1956)

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Speech to be made by the Chairman of The Federal Power Board Sir Duncan L. Anderson, K.B.E., M.D., at the Opening of the Kariba Hydro-Electric Undertaking by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now nearly three years since Your Majesty honoured the workers at Kariba by paying them an aerial visit when I had the great pleasure of accompanying you. Now we have even greater pleasure in welcoming you most warmly on terra firma. All those concerned with the construction of this great project are greatly honoured by Your Majesty's most gracious consent personally to inaugurate it. For us it will always be a memorable occasion. And if I may, Your Majesty, I should like to take this opportunity of extending a welcome to all our guests from our own and other lands.

The first works contract was awarded at the end of June 1955 so that what Your Majesty will see today is the result of less than five years work. Nature has been both kind and cruel to us. In 1958 it visited the works with a flood which discharged a volume of water about twice that ever previously recorded. Two bridges across the river were washed away and the works in the river dislocated. This embarrassed us quite appreciably and we thought for a time our programme might be delayed. But we accepted the challenge of the Zambezi and to borrow words from the Royal Charter granted by King George IV to the Institution of Civil Engineers, 132 years ago, man has been able once again "to direct the great sources of power in nature for the use and convenience of man".

When you operate that switch, Your Majesty will command this great river to turn the generators in the power station 600 feet below us and to send its harnessed power both north and south to meet the growing needs of our developing country.

The work that has made this possible is the sum of the contributions of many lands and races. The capital was provided from international and commonwealth sources and 40% of it was found within the Federation. Of the total sum no less than 82% was spent within the Commonwealth.

Eminent firms of British and French consulting engineers designed the work and supervised its construction. The major part of the civil engineering works and transmission lines were built by Italian contractors. The access roads, the preliminary works in the river and the township were built by contractors in the Federation. The United Kingdom supplied most of the electrical and mechanical plant and equipment and notable contributions were made by manufacturers in the United States, the Union of South Africa, France, Switzerland, Portugal and Sweden. The Portuguese authorities in Mozambique and the authorities in South Africa and the Federation have given most valuable assistance in solving our transport problems.

The Governments of Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia have co-operated wholeheartedly to meet other needs that have arisen; the need to provide access to the site, to resettle the Batonga whose tribal lands are being inundated, and to rescue game threatened by the rising waters of the lake. And of course the Federal Government have been constantly behind us supporting us in all our endeavours.

But we think, Your Majesty, that the most significant human factor in this great venture has been here at Kariba, where Europeans and Africans have worked together in harmony and partnership in conditions which have not been easy.

It is my great honour to invite Your Majesty to inaugurate the Kariba Hydro-Electric Undertaking.