
**SPEECH BY MR. EDGAR F. KAISER, PRESIDENT
AND CHIEF OF THE KAISER INDUSTRIES
CORPORATION.**



Today we not only participate in dedicating a project that was a challenge to men's imaginations for half-a-century – but we also witness the beginning of a bright new era for Ghana – born with the generation here of low-cost power that will nourish and support the growth of diversified economy.

My associates and I are privileged to be here with you – and to take part in this ceremony – for several reasons. And I think it's appropriate today that I share them with you.

It's my belief – to the innermost core of my being – that when man aspires to an uncommon goal for the common good – and when he pursues that goal with a persistency that springs only from unwavering faith, vision and determination – he will succeed in achieving that goal, regardless of whatever obstacles are encountered in his path.

I'm certain we are all aware that world conditions – economically and politically – demand increase cooperation and understanding among the world's nations.

I believe deeply that men of different nations – representing different viewpoints and interests – can work together successfully. The requirement is a bond of mutual trust – mutual respect – and mutual self-interest in accomplishing the specific task. These kinds of human bondage are the priceless ingredients that bring the sense of understanding, which we know can be achieved between people.

To me – the Volta River Project – the Akosombo Dam and the Valco aluminium plant – are solid examples of the soundness and the ultimate triumph of these two beliefs. And that's why I say that I am privileged to be able to participate in this ceremony with you. And speaking for Mrs. Kaiser – and my associates here today with their wives – including Chad Calhoun who has lived closely with this project for the past eight years – I know they, too, share this feeling of privilege.

The project – Mister President – was one of your primary goals for an independent Ghana. The concept of harnessing the powerful and limitless energy of the mighty Volta had hovered in men's sights – but beyond their reach – for nearly two generations.

When you reached out for it – however – your effort was strengthened by three new elements – faith, vision and determination. Your efforts were further strengthened by the faith you inspired among your people. The people of Ghana have demonstrated this faith – not only by joining in the difficult reach for this goal – but also by fulfilling every commitment made for the project's completion.

From its beginning – this project has been a history of cooperation among men and nations. It's a history well known in your country and mine. Every history – however – offers a lesson to those who study it.

I think that the lesson here is perhaps best described in a Ghanaian student's eight simple words – written in chalk on a classroom blackboard:

“If hope are not, our Lives would break.”

A deep river of hope flowed throughout this effort – and all the men and nations involved were its tributaries.

Consequently the life of this project has moved forward – unbroken – from one milestone to another – your visits to the United States, Mister President, and your meetings with President Eisenhower and the late President Kennedy – Kaiser Engineers' reappraisal study relocating the Dam and smelter, adding the power grid and reducing the project's total cost by \$30 million – your calculated risk – Mister President – in proceeding with engineering and development work before the financing was set – the formation of VRA – the call for world tenders and awarding the contracts for construction and supply of equipment – the financial agreement – and the master agreement between Ghana and Valco that makes this project financially feasible – then the start of construction – resettling 80,000 Ghanaians – international construction crews conquering record floods - then the Valco groundbreaking – Impregilo's completion of the Dam ahead of schedule – the successful efforts of the engineers, the contractors and the suppliers to complete the project below cost estimates – and now this inauguration.

At this point, Mr. Lodigaini and Mr. Baldassarrini, my associates in Kaiser Engineers join me in a tribute to you and your people not only for your performance on the job but also for the spirit of cooperation that prevailed throughout the past four years.

Today – with this ceremony – hope turns a corner for Ghana and flows in a new direction. The new lifelines are those overhead – that will ultimately carry 500,000 kilowatts of low-cost power for the development of tomorrow's Ghana.

And now the new hope that this project offers carries with it new challenges to you the people of Ghana.

Your President's dream of a better life for the people of Ghana is now one major step closer to reality.

A leader of a nation – any nation – can inspire his people with faith and vision and determination. He can formulate plans and programmes for building a structure of industry.

But whether this structure rises or falls depends not only on the blueprint of the plan, but also on the materials that go into it and on the quality of effort by every individual involved in its construction.

In building a better Ghana – you are building not only for your own better lives – but also for new generations of Ghanaians. You are building for that young schoolboy who wrote on the blackboard: *"If hope are not, our lives would break"*.

You are his hope – for a better future of opportunity and abundance.

And from our own experiences with you on two separate projects – this hope is well entrusted in you.

I speak not only for myself – but also for my associates in Kaiser Engineers when I say that the performance and dedication of thousands of your countrymen working on the dam project left a lasting impression on us. No one knows better than Ray Ware – who supervised this engineering project for us and who is here with Mrs. Ware – how well the Ghanaian workers learned such new skills as operating heavy equipment – and moving large quantities of materials.

And now some 3,500 of your countrymen are now involved in the construction of the Valco plant. Many of them too, are acquiring new skills in welding and carpentry and other trades.

Each of these thousands of workers brought to these projects an eagerness to learn – and to perform to the best of their individual abilities.

If their performance is truly representative of the capabilities of the people of Ghana – and my associates and I am convinced it is – then that hopeful schoolboy can be confident that his life will not be broken.

You will achieve a better way of life – through diversification of your economy and industrial growth – speeded forward by the electrical power generated here for homes and industry.

Mr. President – Kaiser Engineers is proud to have had a part in translating the Akosombo Dam from an elusive dream to the reality of the present. And Kaiser Aluminium and our partners, Reynolds Metals – represented today by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rice – are looking forward beyond completion of the next phase of the Volta River Project – to Valco's role in helping to achieve Ghana's full economic potential.

Mr. President – today you are dedicating still another stepping stone in the direction of peace and understanding. And from stepping-stones such as these, a watching world can experience a resurgence of faith.

Faith never fails. It's a miracle worker.

Our faith knows because it sees what we cannot see. It sees resources, powers, potencies, which our doubts and fears veil from us.

Faith is assured, is never afraid, because it sees the way out – sees the solution of its problem. It has dipped in the realms of our finer life – our higher and diviner kingdom.

All things are possible to him who has faith – because faith sees and recognizes the power that means accomplishment. It looks beyond all boundaries – transcends all limitations – penetrates all obstacles – and sees the goal.

Thank you.