

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. TIBSHIRANI,
VICE PRESIDENT OF ACRES INTERNATIONAL
LIMITED OF CANADA**



Your Excellency, the Chairman of the P.N.D.C., Chief Executive, the Volta River Authority, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

This occasion marks the successful completion of a major endeavour by the Volta River Authority to harness the renewable energy resource of the Volta River. The Kpong Project manifests itself as a symbol of achievement through international cooperation, and its successful completion is evidence of the foresight and determination of the directors and staff of the VRA for they conceived and regulated the use of multi-national financing with international technological resources and construction capabilities in order to meet Ghana's pressing needs for low-cost energy.

Mr. Chairman, I am very fortunate to have been associated with this Project and I am now honoured to have the opportunity to say a few words to this distinguished audience on behalf of my company, Acres International, and its associate firm, Shawinigan Energy Consultants.

When we look around here today and view all the magnificent work that has been accomplished, we can appreciate that pride is justified and for this Project to have been completed on schedule and within budget, at a time of worldwide political uncertainty and global economic instability, is added cause for satisfaction to the Authorities in Ghana, and to all those institutions and organizations that participated in making this project the reality it is today.

When discussing this development, much can be said (and many technical papers will probably be written) about the planning, engineering, manufacturing and construction of the various structures and machinery, for without doubt these are of the latest design and of the highest quality... however, what is truly worthy of mention are the less visible aspects of this Project.

Under the guidance of the VRA, 6 new re-settlement villages were planned and constructed to house some 7,000 residents whose homes were within the impoundment area for the headpond. Considerable effort was made in planning these villages to preserve the social fabric of village life and to enhance the living environment of the families. The villages are complete in all respects and include good road systems, potable water, electric power and proper sanitary facilities.

The houses are constructed of durable materials and are electrically lit. In addition, in order to assure continuity of the agricultural way of life, farmlands were prepared and allocated to the various villages.

Another important feature of the Kpong Project is the potential to irrigate some 7,000 hectares of agricultural land that are situated under command of the new reservoir. In this regard Acres International has recently completed a study for the IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY that will constitute the basis for phased development of a comprehensive agricultural programme of Rain-fed and irrigated crops of very significant economic benefit. An initial development programme of some 130 hectares of irrigated farmland has already been implemented by the VRA. This pilot project is capable of supplying significant quantities of food to the VRA staff, and will serve to provide valuable knowledge with respect to crop yields and growth patterns, management of soils under irrigation, and the economic benefits of irrigated farms.

One other aspect that I wish to touch upon, and which my opinion contributed very positively to the success of this project, is the wonderful spirit of cooperation and dedication that prevailed between the Volta River Authority, the consultants (Acres International and Shawinigan, both of Canada), and the principal contractors... IMREGILO-RECCHI, the general contractor from Italy... SADELMI, the Mechanical/Electrical Contractor also from Italy ... and the Consortium of Toshiba from Japan and Boving from the United Kingdom, the Manufacturers and Erectors of the Turbines and Generators. In addition, of course, there were many other suppliers, manufacturers, and contractors from Ghana and from many other countries around the world who made substantial contribution to the success of this endeavour.

Equally significant, was the close co-operation that prevailed between some 500 expatriate workers of many nationalities who lived here in Akuse, and some 4,000 Ghanaian who together worked with commitment and dedication. On behalf of all the employees of the consultants, contractors and manufactures who have enjoyed the challenge of working on this project, I extend to our many friends and colleagues in the Volta River Authority our very best wishes for continued success in their efforts to provide dependable, economic electric energy for the people of Ghana.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I wish to introduce my colleague, Mr. Len Allen, who will say a few words. Len has spent a considerable part his career in Ghana and has contributed substantially to the success of the hydroelectric developments here.

His initial assignment in Ghana was from 1952 to 1955 in connection with the studies for the Akosombo Project. Len Allen returned to Ghana in 1974, and has remained here since that time, initially conducting the feasibility studies for the Kpong Project, and later, as Acres' Resident Manager on the construction. Akuse has been Allen's home and place of work for the past 8½ years and, with the successful completion of the Kpong Project to his credit, Len and his wife, Elizabeth, will depart from Ghana tomorrow on their journey home to Canada.