

KARIBA.

The major activity at Kariba is centered round the South Bank Cofferdam, as the River flows through the North abutments. Work has therefore very definitely passed well into stage two of the grand project.

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Simultaneously earth removers are shuttling in and out of the tunnel leading to the huge underground power house. Thousands upon thousands of journeys were necessary to excavate this huge cavern, drilled, blasted and cleared virtually out of solid rock.

Mechanical loaders keep the waste material moving, and it is quite clear that Kariba could never have been built at all without modern earth moving equipment. The noise down here is almost incredible as batteries of pneumatic drills pound their way into the rock face, laying the foundations for yet further progress and expansion. We believe that only now can the layman begin to understand how the cost of Kariba can reach such astronomical figures, for only now can he see it in terms of millions of tons.

Meanwhile, the concrete silos are supplying a steady stream of concrete, which is carried to feed Kariba's constructional nerve centre, the Blondin platform. The concrete is handled on the South Bank where it is tipped into buckets which move on cables and which carry 10 tons at a time.

Under control from the Blondin platform across the river, the concrete buckets are run to any part of the project where they are needed. It's all so huge that it looks like a mere thimblebul at a time. With long distance instructions, the platform operator lowers each load gently into place. After the concrete is released, it is consolidated by mechanical vibrators. Meanwhile pipes are being laid to pump the coffer dam dry. When it is completed - one of a hundred isolated jobs attached to a modern engineering miracle.