

the Guardian,
(U.K.), 10 July 1971

Zambezi diverted for dam

Lisbon, July 9

The Zambezi River has been diverted to allow engineers to begin laying the foundations of the Cabora Bassa dam on the river bed, the constructors. Zamco, said today.

The firm said the diversion of the river through a tunnel carved out of one of its banks concluded one of the crucial stages of the work eight days ahead of schedule.

The tunnel is 52ft. wide and 500 yards long. It enables engineers to drain the river bed dry at a point where the flow is 2,100 cubic yards of water a second.

Zamco said the eight days gained in the tunnel construction was a valuable advance as the rainy season could swell the Zambezi and make work more difficult.

The hydro-electrical plant on the south bank is nearing completion. Five generators at this point and four others on the opposite bank will give the dam, which is costing £150 millions, a capacity of 3,600,000 kilowatts. — UPI.