

Historical Review of the International Water-Resources Program of the U.S. Geological Survey 1940-70

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region in company with technical representatives of the Iranian Ministry of Water and Power. They studied pertinent climatic, hydrologic, geologic, economic, and demographic features of the region; existing and projected water requirements; water-supply systems; possible sources of future water supply; the Minab River water-supply system; desalting economics; and weather modification. Their administrative report of May 1969 concluded: (1) that the widespread presence of natural salt diapirs and evaporite formations in the region imposes severe constraints to the future development of potable water supplies, and that detailed geohydrologic studies and hydrologic data were needed to point out possibilities for interception, diversion, and isolation of naturally occurring fresh water before its contact with and contamination by salt formations, (2) that no potential for weather modification exists because of unfavorable meteorological conditions in the region, (3) that modest additional development of fresh water from the Minab River and from wells in the Issen and Takht Valleys for the Bandar Abbas municipal supply was possible during the next 20 years, and (4) that additional development of conventional water sources for the Bandar Abbas supply would be cheaper than desalting under current economic conditions.

References

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IRAQ

Iraq, historically known as Mesopotamia, occupies most of the broad plains of the Tigris and Euphrate Rivers, one of the great centers of early human cultural development and irrigated agriculture. The U.S. provided bilateral technical assistance to Iraq in the 1950's and the USGS participated briefly in the water-resources sector of this program during 1958-59. There has been no U.S. bilateral program in Iraq since 1959.

At the request of US ICA/Baghdad, Edward Bradley, USGS hydrogeologist, was assigned to Iraq in March 1959 to serve as a ground-water advisor to the Iraqi Development Board, which was somewhat later absorbed in the Iraqi Ministry of Social Affairs. The primary purpose of Mr. Bradley's mission was to develop and guide a long-term program of ground-water investigations in the Government of Iraq. During the early months of his tour, Mr. Bradley, with Iraqi colleagues, had developed the framework of such an investigational program, based largely on recommendations of an earlier ground-water reconnaissance of Iraq carried out by Ralph M. Parsons Co. Mr. Bradley's proposal included areal ground-water investigations and quantitative studies in the Shari Lake, Amara-Mandana and Jezira areas.

In July 1958, however, Iraq terminated the intensive U.S. bilateral technical-assistance program. Mr. Bradley continued for several months longer as an informal advisory capacity to the new government until his transfer to the US ICA/Jordan program in May 1959.

Reference

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ISRAEL

The State of Israel was created in 1948 as a Jewish homeland in ancient Palestine after more than a century of efforts by Zionist leaders. Israel, with help of the international Jewish community and grants and loans from the U.S. and other foreign donors, has developed a tightly knit society and a highly viable economy in a difficult natural environment. The United States provided Israel more than \$1.2 billion in bilateral economic aid between 1948 and 1969.

In early 1962, Water Planning for Israel, (TAHAL) requested US AID/Tel Aviv, as part of