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COMPLETED INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS LISTED

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[Article by H. B.: "Industrial Projects in Syria"]

[Text] Industrial production in Syria increased from 8.162 billion Syrian pounds in 1975 to 11.787 billion pounds in 1978. In other words, during a 3-year period, the value of industrial production increased by 44.4 percent. Basically, the increase was due to the fact that a number of factories began operation in 1978. The rate of growth of this sector of the economy will further be increased by putting the remaining industrial projects in operation.

The following industrial projects have been completed:

In Damascus: A beer brewing factory, a dairy products production line, an underwear factory, an engraving and experimentation center, a glass factory, a chemical detergent plant, a food canning factory, a grain mill, and a pencil factory. Furthermore, the Arab Medical Company is undergoing improvements.

In Homs: a dairy products factory, a yeast factory, a spinning factory with 37,000 spindles, a triple super phosphate fertilizer factory, and a urea-ammonia fertilizer factory.

In Aleppo: A biscuit production line, a cement production line with a 1000 ton capacity, a factory for men's ready wear, a factory for women's ready wear, a wool carpet factory, a cable factory, a television screen factory, a glass factory, a sheep and cow hides tannery, an amianthus cement factory, a factory for battery casings, an electric lamp factory and Shaykh Sa'id Cement Plant. The tractor industry is being developed.

In Hamah: a pharmaceutical factory, a porcelain factory, a cement production line with a 100 ton capacity, a factory for washing wool, a plant for melting iron, a metal pipes factory, a wool-spinning factory, a tire factory, a grain mill, a second production line in Salamiyah Cement Factory, the Southern Chab Sugar Factory and a shoe factory in Misaf.

In Dayr al-Zawr: A cotton spinning factory with a capacity of 37,000 spindles and another cotton spinning factory with a capacity of 75,000 spindles, a sugar factory, a paper factory and a canned foods factory.

In Tartus: A cement factory, a spinning factory in Jablah with a capacity of 75,000 spindles and tobacco processing and redrying station in Jabalah.

In Dir'a: A macaroni factory and a shoe factory.

In Raqqah: A sugar factory and another sugar factory in Maskana.

In Idlib: A factory for preserved foods and a canned foods factory.

In Latakia: A tobacco factory and an aluminum factory.

In Suwayda': A wool rugs factory and a shoe factory.

In Hasaka: A canned foods factory and a cotton spinning factory with a capacity of 75,000 spindles.

In addition, four grain warehouses, seven grain purchase centers and nine grain mills were built in various cities of the country.

During the first quarter of the current year, installation of the first unit in the steam generating station in Mahradah was completed. The unit has a production capacity of 150 megawatts. The second unit was put in operation during the third quarter of the year.

During the third quarter of the past year, a contract was signed for the building of a new steam generating station in the Baniyas district with a production capacity of 2 x 170 megawatts. It is expected that the station will be in operation by the end of 1981. Meanwhile, studies are currently underway for the building of a steam generating station in the southern part of Syria with a production capacity of 2 x 150 megawatts. The station will be ready by the end of 1983.

Surveys are currently being made for utilizing all the available waterfalls in Syria for generating electric power. At the same time studies have been initiated for building the first nuclear power station in the country. This station will begin operation by the end of the eighties. In the district of 'Adra, the first plant to generate electric power from solar and wind energy was constructed. Studies and research in this field are continuing.

The total production capacities of the electric power stations in Syria increased from 241 megawatts in 1970 to 1590 megawatts in 1979. All the governorates of the country have been linked with the general electric current network. The number of villages provided with electricity increased from 241 in 1970 to 1173 at the end of 1978. During 1978, 267

villages were electrified. Meanwhile the two connecting lines with Lebanon and Jordan on a 230 kv wire were completed. It is expected that the connection will be realized during the second half of the current year.

The industrial development plan aims at realizing harmony and integration with the objectives of the production plan in the agricultural sector in a way that guarantees meeting the agricultural needs of fertilizers, machinery and processing the raw materials that can be produced at economical costs in the country in order to secure those materials needed for local consumption and to export the surplus raw materials processed. The industrial development plan also aims at meeting the needs of the domestic market in terms of consumer goods on the basis of the population growth rate, the increase of the average income per capita, changes in the consumer goods market, substituting local goods for imported products in an economical way, contributing to changing the structure of exported goods through increasing the industrial exports that suits the needs of the Arab and foreign markets in terms of quality, specifications and type, working on the concept of the unity of the Arab market and avoiding competition with the other Arab industries with the aim of achieving Arab economic integration, manufacturing the articles within the scope of the strategy for the defense and security plans and distributing the industrial projects over various parts of the country, whenever possible, thus securing appropriate employment opportunities for the labor force.

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