

ISRAEL

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JORDAN

BIDS SOUGHT FOR NEW DAM IN JORDAN

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 17 Dec 79 p 6

[Text] The Jordan Valley Authority has asked companies to submit their qualifications for building the Maqarin Dam, part of a \$1 billion development project, and said it will accept tenders from August 31 next year. It expects to award the contract by January 1981 and hopes that work will be complete within five years of that date.

The dam, on the Yarmouk River, east of Lake Tiberius, is designed to store about 350 million cubic metres of water for drinking and irrigation. The first stage of the project, completed last summer at a cost of \$200 million, has provided enough water to irrigate more than 20,000 hectares. The project is being financed by international agencies including the World Bank, OPEC, the EEC, and various Arab, European and Development Funds.

In advertisements published last week, the Valley Authority said the dam would be constructed under the terms of a general unit-price type contract including escalating cost provisions.

The dam will be 150 metres high; it will require a grout curtain needing some 80 kilometres of drilling, a concrete diaphragm of about 20,000 square metres and a total length of five kms of grouting and drainage adits. It will also entail two concrete-lined spillways, power and irrigation tunnels, a 22-MW hydraulic power house and 21-km transmission line carrying 132-kV.

World Bank officials are currently in Amman to discuss finance of the dam. A Jordanian source said the government has made a series of contacts with international organisations for extra financing, but denied reports by Israeli TV that indirect contacts were carried out with Israel to divide the Yarmouk waters. The dam lies on the Jordanian-Syrian border, close to the Mukhiba dam, where work stopped with the breakout of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

CSO: 4820

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Grimen. The new areas under improvement extend 60 kilometres along the Euphrates banks east and west of Al Riyya. Of these 3,400 hectares were completed in 1978 and were redistributed to their original owners while the rest is now held by cooperatives. Exceptionally high yields were registered in these new areas, mostly in cotton cultivation as between 300 and 500 kilos of cotton were produced per dunum.

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JORDAN

JORDANIAN PURCHASE OF HARDWARE PREVIOUSLY ORDERED BY THE SHAH

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 10 Dec 79 p 3

[Text] Jordan has signed a contract worth L200 million (\$430 million) with the British Department of Defence for 275 Super-Chieftain tanks, it was announced in London last week. The order is considerably larger than had been expected; previous reports had suggested that Jordan might buy 200 of the tanks, originally ordered by Iran but cancelled after the Shah's overthrow in February.

The size of the order suggests that Jordan will not go ahead with the purchase of tanks from the US, a contract which would have had conditions attached. As this newsletter reported in its August 20 and October 22 issues, the US offered Jordan up to 300 M-60 tanks on the condition that it destroyed as many obsolete vehicles as new ones bought, so as not to alter the existing levels of tanks held by Israel and its neighbours. There was Israeli opposition to the proposed sale.

The Americans recently said they expected Jordan to buy 200 British and 100 American tanks.

The British tanks, baptised Shir-1 for the Iranian armed forces (shir means "lion" in Persian), are being modified to meet Jordanian specifications, a British spokesman said. The tanks were manufactured under an agreement committing Iran to the cost of research and development; a second version, the Shir-2, was to have been equipped with the famed Choban armour plating, which the British have developed for NATO forces, but it is now thought unlikely that any tanks with this armour will be exported to non-NATO countries.

The British spokesman said the sale of the tanks to Jordan would make some inroads into the estimated \$1 billion in lost sales to Iran, but the exact scale of the losses had yet to be worked out.

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More rugged terrain improvement is carried out by the State Establishment for the Fuphrates Dam which is currently working on 21,000 hectares west of Maslana. The work at Maslana includes:

An electric pumping station with 136 cubic metre per second throughput carrying water from Lake