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preparing, for help in obtaining actual figures about the quantities of goods. It should be noted that this sector has not been adversely affected by events. Quite the contrary, this sector has actually achieved noticeable progress. In 1975, before the disturbances, Beirut International Airport recorded 126,285 tons of freight traffic, compared with 118,431 tons in 1974. By 1978 this figure came to 118,139 tons. The data will indicate that freight traffic in 1979 exceeded the figure for 1975. The figure for 1980 will be even higher, because there is ongoing progress in shipping activity at Beirut International Airport, especially in the shipping of merchandise which has not been adversely affected by the internal events in Lebanon.

In 1976, freight traffic diminished noticeably, because the airport was closed for 5 months. But activity was restored in 1977 and 1978 almost to the same [1975] level. It continues to improve at the present time. Passenger traffic, however, has not been restored to 1974 and 1975 levels. In 1974, there were 293 [flights] and 2,700,840 passengers, including 534,305 transit passengers. Preliminary estimates for 1979 indicate that there were 1,571,685 passengers, including only 120,000 transit passengers.

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NEW HALFA AGRICULTURAL PROJECT LAUNCHED

Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 13 Jun 80 p 1

[Text] Dr Sayid Sayid Ahmad 'Usman, the Director General of Halfa's new agricultural project, told AL-AYYAM that effective operations of Halfa's new project will start this agricultural season under a \$128 million development loan. Of this amount, \$65 million will be provided by the World Bank and other international financial organizations, and \$63 million by the Sudan government.

He said that use of loan funds will start in September 1980 to purchase various machinery; complete present facilities; improve the irrigation system; support health facilities to combat endemic diseases such as bilharziasis and malaria; and purify drinking water. A study has been completed to instal a modern telephone communication system connecting the various parts of the project via a local microwave station.

The agricultural rotation cycle for this season has been determined as follows: 60,000 acres of cotton, 60,000 acres of wheat, 50,000 acres of peanuts, and 30,000 acres of corn. The corn is included in this rotation for the first time. The Agricultural Research Department approved the planting of two specific types of corn, (Um Batin and Mayo), which do not represent any threat to the sugar cane crop, because they are resistant to piercing larva which infest the sugar cane. The project administration will provide the seeds.

Dr 'Usman concluded that "Raising corn in this project has many advantages to the farmers. It will provide them with food for themselves and their cattle as well."

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