

contributions to Jordan, agency officials say

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the West German government and two aid agencies in the Federal Republic of Germany this week held talks with Jordanian officials on future aid to Jordan.

Jordan was described by a delegation member as "one of West Germany's most important partners" and a country that receives more than any other in the Arab World. He said Jordan will continue to receive aid from West Germany despite Bonn's cuts in foreign aid.

The delegation comprises Mr. Hans von Rohr, head of the Middle East department at the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation (PMZ), Dr. Klaus Oppelt, co-ordinator of the Middle East and North Africa for German Technical Co-operation (GTZ) and Mr. Wolfgang Wipplinger, from the German Development Bank (KfW).

The following is an exclusive interview they gave to Radio Jordan beginning with Mr. von Rohr.

Question: Can you tell us more about the economic co-operation between Jordan and West Germany?

Answer: Jordan is one of our oldest co-operation partners in the world in the field of development.

Our first loan was given to Jordan in 1951. The total amount of aid to date to Jordan is much higher than the aid given to most of the other countries in the world. Jordan has received DM 250 per capita which is certainly more than most of the Arab countries receive from us.

These figures are an expression of our good relations in all areas and of the value that we attach to Jordanian policy as a whole.

You know that Chancellor Kohl was here recently (Oct. 1983) and he also stressed that point on many occasions during his visit.

The volume of aid over the years is DM 900 million which was made available in various fields. We, in Germany, divide the assistance up into various kinds depending on the purpose of the aid.

We have financial co-operation, we give loans for specific purposes, we have technical co-operation, which aims to transfer know-how, and of course we give scholarship to Jordanians to study abroad, mainly in Germany.

To give you an example, from the very early days of our co-operation, the first technical co-operation project in Jordan was the Schneller School and the second one was the Irbid Vocational

Centre both of which, as far as I know, have developed well ever since.

In the field of financial co-operation I think I should mention the Aqaba Port, which was developed with German assistance, and the Ma'an-Aqaba railway which transports phosphates.

Q: We know that the German government is facing financial problems internally. This has forced your government to cut all its aid programmes to developing countries. Are you here to prepare for negotiations or to negotiate a decrease in aid to the Jordanian government?

A: You are right to say that the economic crisis has not missed out Germany. We do have difficulties in balancing our budget and it is obvious that the development budget will be affected by this.

We were forced last year and we are being forced again this year to reduce the level of our commitments to the developing world by about one-third, but we are happy to have been in the position to avoid any cuts to the development budget as far as Jordan is concerned. In other words we intend to continue aid to Jordan as before.

Q: You mentioned the level of co-operation between your government and the Jordanian government, what is this amount in figures and how do you go about implementing it?

A: I mentioned a figure of DM 900 million, this was the total amount which was made available to Jordan up to 1983. The purpose of our mission here is to prepare the aid programme for 1984 and 1985. The figure we are talking about is in the order of DM 83 million but, before the negotiations are complete, no definite answer can be given.

Regarding the implementation of the aid programmes, the German federal government has created a number of institutions which implement projects on behalf of it. I would like to mention first the German Development Bank or KfW, which has the task of implementing on behalf of the German government all financial co-operation, in other words all projects involving investment.

KfW handles all credit programmes and all loans which are given under the development co-operation programmes to Jordan. A colleague from KfW is here with us on this mission.

The other institution in this context is the GTZ, or the German Development Bank, which handles all the technical co-operation

programmes for the federal German government. In other words, it deals with all those programmes which involve the transfer of skills, provision of experts and so on. Again a colleague from GTZ is here and is looking after this part of the co-operation programme.

Q: Dr. Oppelt can you give us a briefing on the fields of technical co-operation with Jordan?

A: The main activities of GTZ in Jordan concerns two fields: The first is agriculture, and the second is education.

To give you some examples of the projects in the field of agriculture, I would mention first the co-operation we have with the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), second the co-operation with the Jordan Co-operative Organisation (JCO). The third is the Zarqa River erosion control project comprising the main projects in the field of agriculture.

When it comes to education, I should mention the co-operation with the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University and with Princess Sarvath Community College.

Q: Dr. Oppelt can you give us more details about the technical co-operation in the various fields you have mentioned?

A: To begin again with the agricultural project with the JVA we have two schemes: The first is to give advice to the president who seeks our advice on all kinds of organisational and managerial matters.

The second is the central workshop we have established in the Jordan Valley in relation to the JCO, we also have an agreement to advise the presidency. Second we have the Madaba farm machinery station which belongs to the JCO, and, within the framework of this, we have provided a cleaning and seed production unit also in Madaba.

The Zarqa River erosion control project aims to build up an institution capable of dealing with the erosion caused by the Zarqa River. This erosion causes a considerable sedimentation in the King Talal Dam, so we are trying to find out in which way this erosion can be prevented.

To come to the educational area we have four projects in the University of Jordan. We have an expert in the department of physics, and in the department of geology, as well as a third expert who is establishing an electronics workshop and a fourth in the department of physical education.

At Yarmouk University we are establishing a centre for educational technology.

In the Princess Sarvath Community College the co-operation consists of the assignment of an expert and the supply of some equipment in order to help the vocational training of young women in Jordan.

Q: Mr. Wipplinger could you outline the financial co-operation?

These financing investment projects essentially involve long term loans.

We have two ways of approaching project financing. One, by embracing directly important projects in, for example, the transport, agriculture and industry sectors. These projects usually involve a long time span which means we have to embrace very carefully the effect these projects have, the setting in which they are put into practice and the managerial problems they are likely to encounter.

We started our financial co-operation with Jordan in the fields like transportation, the Aqaba railway, the Aqaba port development, the electricity sector in Aqaba and other regions.

We have investments in the Jordan Valley in agriculture and in associated areas such as the electrification of the rural areas in the Jordan Valley and in pumping water there.

Contrary to our direct investment projects we are using development banks in Jordan. These include the JCO, and the agricultural credit co-operation in the field of agriculture, and the Industrial Development Bank (IDB).

Through the IDB we reach a great number of medium and small scale industrial enterprises.

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