

## GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW LAND RECLAMATION, INVESTMENT PLANS

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[Article by Hasan 'Ashur: "Hasballah al-Kafrawi Announces That 25,000 Feddans Are To Be Newly Farmed by the Armed Forces in Al-Nubariyah"]

[Text] Eng Hasballah al-Kafrawi, minister of reconstruction and minister of state for housing and land reclamation, declared that it has been decided to allocate 25,000 feddans of desert land in the West al-Nubariyah area to the armed forces for reclamation, new farming and cultivation, with the goal of contributing to the attainment of the goals of self sufficiency in food.

It has been decided to begin carrying out a national adobe brick manufacturing plan aimed at increasing production to 5.4 billion bricks a year in 1986 in order to help solve the housing problem and to build 2,260 intermediate two- or three-room cooperative apartments with living rooms in the Governorate of al-Fayyum at a cost of 18 million pounds.

The minister said that the area that has been set aside is located in the al-Bustan area on the left bank of the al-Nubariyah Canal in the Governorate of al-Buhayrah and that agreement is to be reached on the precise boundaries of this area by the armed forces and the General Redevelopment and Agricultural Development Projects Authority. On the basis of this decision, the armed forces will be in charge of carrying out the work of reclaiming, newly planting and exploiting this area as its contribution to attaining the goals of self-sufficiency in food, and it will reach agreement with the Ministry of Irrigation on the means for irrigating this area by using the most modern developed international irrigation techniques.

The minister added that the ministry's plan includes increasing adobe brick production so that by 1986 that will reach 5.4 billion bricks of various types in existing and new public and private sector plants. This will include development of municipal kilns that use byproducts from the excavation and purging of canals and drains. The plan includes construction of new assembly lines with a productive capacity of 2 billion bricks and contracts are now being made to construct 27 clay brick production lines with a productive capacity of 1.43 billion bricks in the private and public sectors and six lines for light brick with a capacity of 51 million bricks.

In the field of foreign cooperation, a contract has been reached under the economic cooperation protocol with the government of Austria to construct a plant to produce building units with a capacity of about 15 million bricks. Contract has been reached

on the construction of a plant for clay brick and light marble in Wadi al-Natrum with a productive capacity of 100 million bricks. A factory is being built to produce light marble in Wadi al-Hayy with a capacity of 60,000 cubic meters per year along with a plant to manufacture 45 million (al-Baks) bricks. Construction is also underway on a clay brick plant in al-Tabin with a 200-million brick capacity and equipment has been imported and facilities have been made for a sand brick plant in al-Minya to produce 50 million bricks a year and import and install a production line for gypsum walls in al-'Amiriyah to produce 40 million bricks per year.

Eng 'Abd-al-Rahman Labib, chairman of the Construction and Housing Cooperative Authority, declared that agreement had been reached with the Governorate of al-Fayyum to construct 2,260 intermediate cooperative apartments whose costs will come to about 18 million pounds. These will comprise two rooms and a living room at costs of about 7,500 pounds or three rooms and a living room at costs of about 9,500 pounds; 20 percent of the deed price is to be paid in advance and the rest will be in installments over 25 years at annual interest of 3 percent. These will be distributed through the governorates in accordance with the priorities of the Cooperative Authority which favor newlyweds, people transferred to the governorates, people returning from abroad, administrative eviction cases and urgent cases.

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