

9,000 cu.m. They also include the construction of a station for managing the new network, whose length is 167 km; the station contains a warning department and an operations room supplied with electronic equipment for determining the sites of faults. (SPA 1030 gmt 28 Apr 85)

**CUT IN POWER COMPANY DIVIDENDS** Riyadh, 23rd April: The cabinet has approved a proposal "to reduce [the] rate of profits to 10% from 15% for shareholders of electricity and gas companies as well as Saptco". (SPA in English 1215 gmt 23 Apr 85)

#### SUDAN

**CUTS IN TAX ON FOOD** (Text) The Upper Nile regional government has decided to rescind the development tax on sorghum of nine pounds on every sack and to reduce the development fund tax on sugar from 20 to 10 pounds on every small sack. Studies are now being carried out on the possibility of reducing the tax on flour and other commodities. (Omdurman home service 1930 gmt 27 Apr 85)

**WATER PROJECT** Khartoum, 24th April: Work on a joint Sudanese-Italian project to set up "a water network" [location not stated] will start in October. The Italian government will provide 8m dollars to finance it, and the Sudanese government will pay Sudanese working there. (SUNA in English 1047 gmt 24 Apr 85)

**NETHERLANDS AID** Khartoum, 25th April: The Netherlands government has undertaken "to extend" 15m guilders for oil imports, 200m guilders to support the balance of payments, and 7,000 t of grain. (SUNA in English 1625 gmt 25 Apr 85)

#### SYRIA

**SOVIET DEVELOPMENT AID** (Text of Soviet reports) A new inter-governmental agreement was signed today [26th April] in Damascus on economic and technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic. Our correspondent, Kazbek Basiyev, reports: Under the agreement Syria will be given the largest credit in the history of Soviet-Syrian relations for the offer of assistance in 1985-90 to build new installations and also to continue the construction of a number of projects envisaged by agreements concluded earlier. The installations, which will be built in the Syrian Arab Republic with the Soviet Union's assistance in coming years, include: The Khan-Tuman water reservoir; an irrigation system for 82,000 ha in the Aleppo area; 330 km of railways, locomotive and wagon repair depots in Damascus, Homs and Aleppo; 240 km of electric power lines, and a number of other projects. During the talks, coordination was reached also on some issues related to bilateral financial and banking relations. The implementation of the agreement signed will be a new important contribution in Syria's progress along the road of economic and social development, and will enhance the further consolidation of friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Syria. (Moscow home service 1500 gmt 26 Apr 85)

The ceremonies for signing a new agreement for economic and technological cooperation took place in Damascus as a development of the agreement reached during the friendly and working visit by the Syrian President, Hafiz al-Asad, to the Soviet Union in 1984. Under the new agreement Syria was granted a loan for assistance in 1985-90 in constructing new projects, and also in continuing the construction of a group of projects specified in the previously contracted agreements. The Soviet Union will assist Syria in constructing the water reservoir at [name indistinct], the irrigation network for the lands of the region of Aleppo, extending railway lines and power lines, and in constructing railway workshops in Damascus, Homs and Aleppo. The project of constructing the irrigation network in the region of western [name indistinct] and the project of constructing the Ba'th hydraulic institutions on the Euphrates and others, occupy a special place among the projects that have already started. (Moscow in Arabic for abroad 1430 gmt 27 Apr 85)

#### TURKEY

**"DIFFICULTIES" IN COOPERATION WITH LIBYA** (Excerpt) The 12th round of the Turkish-Libyan joint economic committee meetings has begun in Ankara. At the talks