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ERAW

The Higher Council for Investment has decided to give incentives to companies investing in projects to change the desert into fertile land, according to press reports. They gave new details of the incentives planned by a session of the newly-created council chaired by Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali. Mr. Ali, who assumed office heading a new cabinet, announced formation of the council to replace an investment ministry that has been abolished from the new government. Egypt imports more than 65 per cent of its food. Less than 10 per cent of its land is inhabited. A \$42 billion 1982/87 plan aims for eight per cent economic growth with stress on agriculture.

LOANS FOR FERTILISER SCHEMES

Talks are under way with West Germany about providing a total DM 140 million in aid for schemes to upgrade and expand the local fertiliser industry. The money would come in the form of concessionary loans from Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau (KfW).

Feasibility studies for the two schemes being considered have been done by British Sulphur Corporation. The first involves construction of an DM 80 million plant, either in Suez or Alexandria, to double ammonium fertiliser output to 1.5 million tonnes by 1986.

The second is a plan to convert the Kima fertiliser works at Aswan from electricity to gas. This would involve building a gas pipeline from the Red Sea. The Kima works uses about 8 per cent of total annual electricity output, provided at heavily subsidised rates.