

VOLUME OF EXPORTS INCREASES

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ERAW

The volume of exports going via the Port of Aqaba during the first half of 1983 reached 2,142,000 tonnes compared with 1,763,000 tonnes exported during the same period in 1982. The total exports of phosphates reached 1,758,000 tonnes compared with 1,728,000 tonnes, an increase of 30,000 tonnes. Meanwhile a recent issue of the Amman Chamber of Industry bulletin said that the volume of imports reached 1,649,000 tonnes compared with 1,586,000 tonnes during the same period in 1982.

SILVER EXTRACTION PLANT

A joint Indian-Jordanian venture has set up a plant in Jordan to extract silver from waste material.

The plant, designed to produce 100 kilograms of silver ingots per day, is part of a \$3 million complex for manufacturing silver jewelry and wares.

The plant, expected to go into production in the near future, would process used photographic material containing silver nitrates and discarded clothing with silver embroidery to produce silver.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

An American company, Sam P. Wallace, has an \$18.2 million construction contract for a wastewater treatment plant in Irbid. The company is now negotiating with local firms about a civil works subcontract.

The company is to build a 12,000-cubic-metre-a-day plant in the Wadi Al-Hamam region, northwest of Irbid. It will represent the first phase in a three-stage Water Supply Corporation scheme to provide the area with more water. Irbid's population is about 125,000; that of the area is almost 750,000. The plant is for completion in 36 months.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

National Consultative Council (NCC) members have called for the concentration of authority in the hands of the ministry of agriculture to facilitate agricultural development.

In a discussion of recommendations submitted by the council's Agricultural Committee concerning agricultural policy in Jordan, several members pointed out that the Ministry of Agriculture should assume more authority over other agricultural institutions and departments in Jordan.

Members suggested that agricultural institutions should work under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture. "The existing decentralisation in decision-making hampers agricultural development in Jordan," they said. As a solution, members recommended the centralisation of decision-making and decentralisation in the implementation of agricultural policies and projects.

The Agricultural Committee recommendations are based on an NCC debate on agriculture that took place last June.