A Danish joint venture of Grundfoe and Rasmussen & Schiotz (RSS) has started site work on the Arbil irrigation project number one in the north. The contract was signed in September 1981 with the Rafidain State Organisation for Irrigation Projects. Work is expected to be completed in 14 months.

More than 1,000 kilometers of irrigation pipes are to be laid over an area of more than 50 square kilometers and several pump stations will be built together with reservoirs. Grundfos is to supply pumps and equipment - worth about \$ 15.7 million - and R&S is doing the \$ 4.1 million installation and civil works.

The \$ 16 million contract for Arbil irrigation project number two was awarded in April 1981 to Austria's Rudolph Bauer.

## STATE ENTERPRISE FOR DESERT CASIS

A State Enterprise for Desert Oasis & Soil Maintenance has been set up, attached to the Irrigation Ministry. Among the enterprise's tasks are stabilising oases and enlarging existing ones, and utilising water resources and plants to stabilise sand dunes. Two departments will cover these aspects; two others will look after soil and water maintenance, and the development of desert and rain lands. The priority Law 157 covering major development projects will apply to all the enterprise's schemes.