

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

A cooperation agreement to further enhance bilateral relations has been signed between the General Federation for Farmers Cooperative Societies and the Czechoslovak Farmers Union. The Deputy Chairman of the Iraqi General Federation emphasized during the signing ceremony that farmers throughout the country had worked to develop and improve agriculture. The Chairman of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Farmers Union expressed his organization's desire to consolidate cooperation ties with Iraqi farmers in the interest of both.

The agreement stipulates exchange of visits by farmers delegations for training purposes, the allocation of university seats for Iraqi farmers' sons in Czechoslovak institutes and universities, and the exchange of expertise.

DRINKING WATER PROJECT

Work on the giant ID 325 million worth Karkh drinking water project is progressing. The 300 million gallon/day capacity project designed to meet the daily water consumption of one million citizens, is to be achieved in two phases: The first will begin in 1985 providing 200 million gallons daily and the second will be completed in 1986. According to the director general of Baghdad Water Supply Department, this new project, located some 40 kms from the centre of the capital, has a capacity well above water consumption requirements of the estimated two million inhabitants of the Karkh area, on the western side of Baghdad. The said capacity will provide each person with half a cubic metre of water daily, satisfying the standards of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Latest technology is used in the purification plants, each of a capacity of 450,000 cubic meters daily, with a possible expansion upto 1,35 million cubic metre per day. The Karkh water purification plants are being built over an area of 400 donums stretching along the Tigris river from which water will be pumped into 18 sedimentation tanks. The plant will have eight low lifting pumps, 72 gravitational filters, four ground water storage tanks. The construction work has been contracted to several international companies, machines for treatment, sedimentation and sterilization with connected works to a certain company, machines of raw and clean water pumping and pumping to storage tanks to another firm, electrical machines and equipment connected jobs to a third company, and pipes and fittings to a fourth firm.

NEW HOSPITAL OPENS

Baghdad's Salihiya hospital was opened recently by Vice-President Taha Mohieddin Maarouf. The hospital will initially be a 100-bed polyclinic; there are plans to expand to 200 beds in the next two years. It has an out-patient clinic and surgical and therapeutic wards. Hospital staff are being supplied by Dublin-based PARC Hospital Management. PARC now has 80 Baghdad-based staff, who dealt with the first batch of out-patients on 16 May. It expects to build up to the full complement of 450 staff over the next three months. In-patients will be accepted shortly once the theatres and laboratories have been commissioned.