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IRAN RESCHEDULES SYRIAN DEBTS

The Iranian parliament approved a bill recently rescheduling the repayment of Syrian debts of nearly one billion dollars, according to press reports. The parliament also agreed to supply Syria with cheap oil.

The bill allows the Iranian oil ministry to sell Syria five million tonnes of crude oil in the next 12 months, at 2.5 dollars less than the official Opec benchmark price of 29 dollars per barrel. Syria will also get one million tonnes of oil in the same period free of charge.

Out of its 993 million-dollar debt to Iran, Syria would repay 493 million dollars in 20-million-dollar-monthly installments beginning May 1985. The balance of 500 million dollars would be repaid in 12 quarterly installments beginning May 1989, according to these press reports.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN REGION

The General Company for Executing Industrial Projects (southern region branch) is to carry out LS 130 million (\$33 million) worth of work in Deraa and Suweyda governorates in 1984, the director said recently. The schemes include water supplies, expanding grain silos, and setting up medical and rural development schemes.

LOAN FOR SEWERAGE PROJECT

The World Bank has approved a \$30 million loan for sewerage in Homs and Hama. The project involves building two urban sewage treatment plants in the cities, as well as extending existing networks.

A British company, Howard Humphreys & Partners, did the masterplan studies for the two schemes and completed tender documents in 1977. Client is the Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources.

OIL PRODUCTION

Syria's oil production is running at nine million tonnes a year, of which about 5.5 million is being exported, Syrian Oil Minister Ghazi Al-Droubi was quoted recently as saying.

Oil industry sources estimate Syria's oil production reached about 8.4 million tonnes last year, up from 8.2 million in 1982.

Syrian officials have put the crude oil capacity of the country's refineries at 220,000 barrels a day.