

The homes will be built with precast elements supplied by the factory that is already providing parts of the 2,000-home Saddam neighbourhood. The elements are made under licence from Denmark's Larsen & Nielsen.

The Architects Collaborative (TAC) of the US is responsible for the Hai Saddam scheme; India's Makers Development Services was awarded the \$170 million construction contract in mid-1980. Completion of the work, which also includes amenities and infrastructure, is due in January 1984.

#### PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR HOSPITALS

The Revolution Command Council (RCC) has ratified an agreement with the Japanese to finance the purchase of equipment and supplies for five 400-bed general hospitals.

The five hospitals - believed to be in Baghdad, Tikrit, Nasiriya and Najaf - were built in a \$174 million contract by Japan's Marubeni Corporation and Taisei Corporation. These two firms, with Fujita Corporation, also of Japan, are building eight other general hospitals.

Marubeni was also reported to be negotiating for the equipment supply contract at the end of 1982. The tender documents were prepared by the UK's Architects Co-Partnership.

Earlier in 1983, Marubeni confirmed that it has a five-year maintenance contract for all 13 hospitals. The corporation would not reveal the value of the contract, which was signed in 1982. It covers maintenance only, and does not include staffing or training.

#### STUDIES FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

The Irrigation Ministry has invited consultants to tender for re-evaluation studies for the Eski Kalak irrigation system. Work will involve re-evaluating the existing structures and preparing new designs, specifications and tender documents for irrigation and drainage systems and for further expansion.

The existing scheme is midway between Mosul and Arbil, beside the northern bank of the Greater Zab river. A small way station 15 years ago, Eski Kalak has now developed into a large sprawling village.

Initial studies for irrigation and agricultural work were completed by a foreign firm in 1955/56. By 1960, the first stage, comprising the main barrage, main and branch canals, and administrative offices, was completed. Further work on the main canal and two pumping stations comprised the second stage, which was not completed until 1977.

Most of the project is devoted to raising sugar beet to supply the Mosul sugar mill. In 1980, the area was shared by six co-operative farms, an agricultural institute and an animal husbandry station; there were plans to expand livestock production and extend the irrigation network over a further 2,500 hectares. More than 17,000 hectares are now irrigated.

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