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SEWAGE TREATMENT PROJECTS

The Housing Ministry is planning to build a large sewage treatment works in Aleppo. The project is still being studied, but a World Bank team has visited the city for talks about possible financing.

Preliminary costs for the project are put at \$230 million. This would include the treatment plant itself, sewage pumping stations, and trunk and interceptor sewers.

The government and the World Bank are looking at the possibility of co-financing for the scheme, with further funds from Arab development agencies. The World Bank is not expected to allocate any cash for the project until the start of its next financial year on 1 July 1985.

In May, the bank approved a \$30 million loan for similar plants in the central towns of Homs and Hama. A further \$17 million in financing for the \$150 million scheme has been arranged with the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development. The UK's Howard Humphreys & Partners completed the project masterplan in the late 1970s.

Besides, bids are expected to be invited in early 1985 for mechanical, electrical and civils equipment for the Homs and Hama sewerage scheme. Earlier this year the World Bank approved a concessionary loan of \$30 million for the scheme; a further \$17 million in financing has been arranged with the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development.

Tenders are to be evaluated by the Homs and Hama Sewerage Unit, a specially created department of the Housing Ministry. The local General Company for Water Projects is expected to do some of the civil work on the scheme. Client is the Public Works and Water Resources Ministry.

LOAN FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Riyadh-based Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) has extended aid of \$170 million to part-finance five projects countrywide. The long-term interest-free loan is to be divided among the following schemes, according to an SFD announcement :

- The road round Damascus to the Lebanese border, being built for an estimated \$280 million by the local Mount Kassioun Company
- Baniyas power station - the first two by 165-MW stage has been completed by Italy's Gruppo Industrie Elettromeccaniche (GIE) and plans are in hand to build an extension
- Damascus airport - main work was completed in late 1982 by the local Military Housing Establishment with Aeroport de Paris as consultant
- Expansion of Latakia and Tartous ports
- Tishrin university in Latakia.