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Move to update irrigation system

THE US Agency for International Development (AID) has agreed to finance a new project to develop irrigation systems on 600,000 feddans, in a number of governorates, throughout the country. The project, which is considered of great importance, is expected to be completed within five years starting in the middle of this year, said First Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Irrigation, Dr. Tharwat Fahrai.

Advanced technological and scientific methods will be applied in the project which includes the use of automatic control systems to

distribute irrigation water and reduce waste; lining canals, and recycling drainage water for use in agriculture, said Dr. Fahrai. The total cost of the project is estimated at LE 100 million of which LE 35 million is in foreign currency, to cover purchases of the required equipment, he said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Irrigation is currently conducting a study on the subterranean reservoir in the south of Egypt on the border with the Sudan, under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) and in collaboration with the Sudan. The

aim of the study is to determine the available water resources for use on reclamation projects, said an official source at the Ministry.

The study is also directed to making use of the subterranean reservoir of Nubia, south-west of Egypt, which is distinguished by its storing of water suitable for agriculture, said the source. A number of experimental reclamation projects to determine requirements of subterranean water for the needs of agricultural expansion in the future, are to be carried out, added the source. — GSS

13.02.86

New irrigation canal planned for Matruh

THE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Youssef Wali, is currently probing a project to irrigate 100,000 feddans at El-Alamein and Sidi Abdul Rahman, and 150,000 feddans at Wadi el-Dabaa through a new canal that is to start from the existing El-Nubaria canal which provides Borg el-Arab and El-Hamam areas with water.

The Governor of Matruh, Mr. Yusri el-Shami, said that about 250,000 citizens are expected to settle in these areas and that studies are being conducted on the proper ways to remove mines planted in these areas during World War II.

Mr. el-Shami moreover said that the project is being studied by experts from the ministries of Agriculture, Irrigation, Local Government and Reconstruction and Land Reclamation.

"A plan has also been worked out to establish 750 farms for the production of figs along the north-west coast from Borg el-Arab to Sidi Barrani a distance of 412 kilometres", said the Governor.

The establishment of these farms will help revive the production of figs which was affected by the spread of residential districts west of Alexandria, and will also help settle a large number of bedouin, he added. — GSS

06.02.86

Bid to utilise Siwa water reservoir

THE Governor of Mersa Matruh, Mr. Yussri el-Sharai held a recent meeting with the Directors of irrigation, agriculture, and land reclamation to examine the probable results of the recent discovery of the subterranean reservoir, which has a capacity of 740 billion cubic metres.

The discovery will enable Siwa oases to move considerably towards development, and 50,000 people at least, of farmers from the Nile Valley will be able to inhabit the area. The water potential is sufficient to irrigate 120,000 feddans for a period of at least 200 years.

This estimation came about as an outcome of th-

rough studies conducted by a leading US organisation over two years, said Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Allara, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Reconstruction and Land Reclamation. The Governorate was acquainted with the feasibility of cultivating Siwa oasis and the suggested ways of drawing on the water of this reservoir which flows from 200 springs.

The Secretary of the National Democratic Party in Matruh, Mr. Ali Abbas said that the NDP has decided to contribute, with the Governorate, in executing the reclamation of 11,000 feddans at the Zaytun oasis in the first stage of the agricultural project. The area will be cultiva-

ted with vegetables, fruit, flowers, medicinal herbs and other exportable crops.

Cheif of Siwa Oases, Mr. Kasera Mahraud said that the Ministry of Reconstruction has built three villages, all provided with utilities, by way of reconstructing the area.

The Governor of Matruh stated that Siwa will be visited by four ministers who will get an idea of the best ways of benefiting from the wasted water of the reservoir for cultivating barren land in these distant areas. Siwa is linked to the Nile Valley by a new paved road, costing LE 42 million, which distance can be covered in four instead of 14 hours. — GSS