

[Husayn] It is a worthwhile project which deserves study by all concerned. Water is extremely important to our existence in this part of the world.

**Delegation Reportedly To Visit Moscow 'Next Week'**  
*JN081542 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic*  
 7 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad* has learned that a high-level Jordanian delegation will head for Moscow at the beginning of next week to hold important military and political talks with Soviet leaders. *Al-Ittihad* has also learned that the delegation's talks will focus on the issue of supplying Jordan with its military requirements of sophisticated weapons, especially after Jordan purchased SAM air defense units from the Soviet Union. The talks will also deal with the efforts being made to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East. The delegation is expected to prepare for the Jordanian monarch's forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union in response to an invitation from Soviet leaders.

**Dudin Denounces Israeli Water 'Scheme'**  
*JN090606 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Jul 87 p 1*

[Text] Amman (J.T.) — Jordan on Wednesday appealed to international forums and organisations to intervene and stop Israel from implementing a plan to pump water from the occupied West Bank.

The appeal was issued by Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin. In a statement carried by the *Jordan News Agency*, Petra, Mr. Dudin pointed out that the Israeli plan was a flagrant violation of international conventions and U.N. resolutions. The government is in contact with the U.N. and other international organisations over the Israeli scheme, the minister said.

Under the Israeli plan, about 20 million cubic metres of water will be pumped every year from an area southeast of the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem. Most of the water so pumped will

be used to cater Jewish settlements in the West Bank. The Israeli Defence Ministry has approved the plan, which West Bank mayors have said will deprive the Palestinian towns and villages around Bethlehem and the city itself of water.

Jordan has instructed its permanent representative at the U.N. to lodge a protest over the scheme with the world body saying the Kingdom reserved the right to call for a Security Council meeting to discuss the issue.

Mr. Dudin said Wednesday that since 1967 Israel had been seizing water resources in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and imposing restrictions preventing Arabs from exploiting their water resources for agricultural and drinking purposes. At the same time, Israel continued to explore for and supply water to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, Mr. Dudin said, pointing out that the settlements' consumption of water was double of that of the entire West Bank.

These Israeli measures are part of the Jewish state's schemes aimed at Judaizing the occupied territories and evicting their legitimate owners by confiscating their land and building new settlements, the minister said.

The minister noted that although 720 water wells had been drilled before Israel's occupation of the West Bank in 1967, most Arab towns and villages in the now-occupied territory suffer from a relatively permanent shortage of water during summer as a result of arbitrary Israeli actions. The Israeli authorities have demolished 140 water pumps used by Arab farmers in the West Bank for irrigation purposes, the minister said.

Furthermore, he said, the occupation authorities have also destroyed irrigation canals and sealed off large areas of agricultural lands in the Jordan Valley and also blocked many irrigation projects in Nabulus, Ramallah, Bayt Sahur, Bethlehem, Hebron and Bayt Jala in addition to drilling deep wells near Arab water resources and thus drying Arab wells.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, Mr. Dudin said, 39 per cent of the inhabitants on the refugee camps there and 11 per cent of the houses in Gaza City do not have water supply.

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