

Syria, Jordan to build dam on Yarmuk

Post Middle East Staff
and Agencies

Jordan and Syria signed an agreement yesterday for building a hydroelectric dam on the Yarmuk River, culminating a successful drive by Amman to prevent Syria from diverting the Yarmuk's waters away from prime Jordanian agricultural land.

The new dam on the Jordan-Syrian border near Israel will permit Jordan to continue irrigating the northern Jordan Valley, while generating electricity primarily for Syrian consumption.

Exploitation of the Yarmuk has been a sore point in relations between the two countries for the past year, after Damascus first laid plans to dam the Yarmuk near its sources inside Syria to generate hydroelectric power.

The initial Syrian plan would have allowed Syria to divert up to 90 per cent of the waters from the river, which is the main source of irrigation for Jordan's northern farming region.

The new \$450 million project is designed to irrigate land on both sides of the border and generate electricity mainly for Syrian consumption, the official Jordanian news agency, Petra, said yesterday in announcing the agreement.

The agreement on the long-delayed project, called the Maqarn Dam, was signed in Amman by Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid al-Rifai and his visiting Syrian counterpart, Abdel-Raouf al-Kasm.

Syria, Iraq to have MiG-29s in air by spring

Post Defence Reporter
TEL AVIV - The Soviet-made MiG-29 fighters which Syria and Iraq have acquired are to be operational by springtime. While they will increase the capabilities of those countries' air forces, they will not bring any drastic change in the balance of power with Israel, a senior source said here yesterday.

The unidentified source said that Syria and Iraq have each bought a dozen MiG-29s. Deliveries are believed to have commenced, and are to be fully completed by the end of the year. However it is not clear how many will be fully m

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