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outlet from the drain to Lake Hammar. Since 1985, Riedel has dredged about 5 million cubic metres. The company has kept its equipment in Iraq, where it is seeking further dredging work.

- A £20 million (\$32 million) credit to back the supply of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment by UK companies was signed in June by the UK's **Midland Bank** and the local **Rafidain Bank** (MEED 6:6:87). The line, backed by the UK's Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), is for contracts to supply prepared pharmaceuticals, bulk supplies of semi-processed pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, including aids and equipment for the handicapped, veterinary medicine and insecticides. Minimum contract value is £50,000 (\$80,000).

- A \$12 million loan agreement was signed in Jeddah by the Islamic Development Bank and the Baghdad-based **Arab Company for Antibiotic Industries** on 13 July. The money will finance the purchase of laboratory equipment for the company's planned \$115 million antibiotic factory, to be built outside Baghdad (MEED 25:4:87; 31:5:86).

- The **State Company for Grain Processing** has been set up to replace the two firms responsible for flour mills and bakeries, as changes continue in the Trade Ministry's organisational structure (MEED 30:5:87; 25:4:87). **State Company for Trading Machinery & Handtools** has replaced the firm previously in charge of trading hand tools and equipment. The two companies responsible for stores and engineering projects have also been scrapped.

- The country's 115 polyclinics — of which 52 are in Baghdad — treated 2.2 million people in 1986, the daily Baghdad Observer reports.

- The US' University of California has signed a five-year archaeological exploration agreement with the antiquities department, the daily Baghdad Observer reports.

- Nearly 50,000 families are entitled to benefits, as their income is below the minimum for an unskilled worker. In 1986, payments — worked out according to Social Security Law 129 of 1980 — amounted to ID 17 million-19 million (\$55 million-61 million) a month.

- The **Soft Drinks Department** will produce 1,680 million cans of Pepsi-Cola in 1987, compared with 984 million cans last year, director-general Hisham Rashid Saleh says.

- Economic and technical co-operation agreements were signed with Spain and Yugoslavia on 9 July and 14 July.

JORDAN

Truck company tenders to update fleet

A tender for a range of vehicles has been issued by the **Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Company (IJLTC)** in the first stage of a four-year programme to renew its entire fleet. IJLTC now has 350 **Steyr** trucks — operated by the local **Odeh Naber & Sons Transport Company** — and 400 **MAN** trucks which it operates itself.

The company has reached an amicable settlement of its long-running dispute with **MAN**, which dates back to 1983 (MEED 17:5:86). **MAN** has agreed that all vehicles and other facilities under dispute will become the property of IJLTC.

The company is going ahead with construction of garages in Baghdad. Work is to be carried out by an unidentified Iraqi public-sector company. Expansion of its Aqaba garage, workshops and offices has already been completed.

The tender calls for the supply of 150 truck-tractors, 150 semi-trailers (general cargo), two truck-tractors (heavy cargo), four low-bed semi-trailers (heavy cargo), 15 semi-trailers/tanks (vegetable oil) and 15 semi-trailers (car carriers). Closing date is 15 August.

Financing will come from IJLTC's own resources. The company posted a JD 1.4 million (\$4.1 million) profit in 1986, and has seen loads increase by 19 per cent in January-May compared with the corresponding period of 1986.

Designs take shape for Karameh dam

The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) is proceeding with design work for the JD 45 million (\$131 million) Karameh dam, in the southern Jordan Valley. Designs should be finished by the end of 1987, ahead of a planned February 1988 donors' meeting for the scheme. Construction work should start in May 1988, for completion in three years, says JVA dams department vice-president Zafer Alem.

The dam — formerly known as Mallaha — will be able to impound 55 million cubic metres. It will be used to store surplus water from the King Abdullah canal in winter, and side wadi floodwater.

The water will be used to bring 3,000 hectares under irrigation. Supplies will also come from the newly completed King Abdullah canal extension, which was built by West Germany's **Josef Riepl** in a JD 9.4 million (\$27 million) contract.

The canal extension will provide winter irrigation for 6,000 hectares. The dam water will be used for year-round irrigation of 1,200 hectares of citrus groves, and a similar area of vegetables and other crops.

Project consultant is the UK's **Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners**; finance is expected from the World Bank and Arab aid funds.

The JVA expects in August to sign a contract with the US' **Harza Engineering Company** for a feasibility study on an estimated JD 25 million (\$73 million) scheme to build small dams in side wadis of the Jordan Valley. These are expected to include Wadi al-Yabis, Wadi Kufranjeh, a regulatory dam at the Zarqa river, and a project to raise the Kufrein dam.

IN BRIEF

- Water Authority of Jordan president Saleh

Kilani and Jordan Valley Authority president Munther Haddadeen have resigned. The moves are officially described as preliminaries to setting up a water supply and irrigation ministry to encompass the activities of both organisations.

- The Public Works Department awarded 360 contracts valued at a total JD 80 million (\$233 million) in the first half of 1987. Road contracts accounted for JD 52 million (\$151 million) and building contracts for JD 28 million (\$81.5 million).

- About 35 companies will participate in a British products and services fair at the Amman Intercontinental hotel from 22-25 July. The event is organised by the local **Motaz Othman & Partners**.

- The **Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation** has signed an agreement to buy \$210,000 worth of Sudanese millet. Sudan will buy \$420,000 worth of cement. The two countries are also discussing the possibility of bartering Jordanian medicines for Sudanese agricultural products.

- The Higher Health Council has recommended that the Jordan Medical Association start a fund to help unemployed doctors to open clinics in rural areas. An estimated 600 local doctors are unemployed.

- Iraq will buy 122 million eggs, valued at \$8 million, in 1987.

- National carrier **Royal Jordanian** has started a weekly flight to Sharjah. It expects soon to double the number of flights.

KUWAIT

Dutch bid to sell minehunters

A Dutch shipyard, **Van der Giessen-de Noord**, is negotiating to sell two minehunters, a spokesman from the Netherlands' Foreign Affairs Ministry said on 13 July. The outcome of the negotiations is still unclear, however; the ministry says several other countries are interested in supplying the vessels.

Van der Giessen applied for a licence to export one or more minehunters on 9 July. Because the vessels are for defence purposes, and Kuwait is not directly involved in the Gulf war, the spokesman said the Dutch government will not oppose the licence. A Dutch offer of minesweepers in late 1984 was turned down by the Kuwaiti navy (MEED 9:11:84).

The polyester-hull Alkmaar-class vessels require 40 crew; they will be Kuwaitis trained by the Dutch navy, the Dutch Defence Ministry says.

A Saudi naval team arrived in Kuwait on 13 July to discuss help in sweeping Kuwaiti territorial waters for mines. A dozen or so mines have been detected and defused in the waters around Mina Ahmadi by US Defence Department teams (MEED 11:7:87, page 45).