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Newspapers as indicated.

### SOVIET PROGRESS ON MAIN TURKMEN CANAL

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources\_7

According to S. Kalizhnyuk, chief of the Sredazgidrostroy, the 1951 plan for construction of the Main Turkmen Canal was completed on 19 October instead of 7 Movember as originally pledged, thanks to the effectiveness of socialist competition among 80 percent of the working personnel. The builders of the canal received an additional task for the remainder of the year, which will, upon completion, increase the original capital outlay for 1951 by 61 percent upon completion, increase the original capital outlay for 1951 by 62 percent and increase the amount of work on construction and installation by 126 percent. Another important task for the fourth quarter of 1951 is to make skilled a tekhnikum are to be opened for this purpose.(1)

In 1952, the volume of work of Sredazgidrostroy will increase six times. It will consist mainly of building railroads, highways, living space, communal enterprises, auxiliary enterprises, electric power plants, and other plants. Actual construction work on the canal project is also to begin in 1952.

In 1952, the quarries and other sources of raw materials for construction must be completely built and their work mechanized; uninterrupted transportation of the materials to the construction sites must also be provided.

Another important task is the creation of a base in Kazandzhik, like the one at Takhia Tash, to enable the work on the southern sector of the canal to begin. (2) In September, the Sredazgidrostroy was in the process of creating a new construction sector in Kazandzhik, where large warehouses, a machinery repair plant, auto and tractor repair shops, a woodworking combine and a settlement for construction workers were to be built. (3)

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Finding suitable construction materials reasonably close to the construction site remains a problem. An August report states that up to 45,000 unfired bricks made of locally available red clay were produced daily in the first construction section of the Takhia Tash Construction Sector and up to 12,000 in the second section. (4) The Sultanizdagskiy Construction Sector has fulfilled the 1951 plan by producing 1.5 million bricks. (5) However, a report of February 1952 indicates that Professor Skramtayev, a Moscow scientist, and Engineer Orlyankin, his assistant, were on the construction site to introduce the substitution of coarsely porous concrete for bricks because of the shortage of suitable clay for making the latter. (6) In addition to the raw materials previously found in the Sultan-Uiz-Dag mountains on the right bank of Amu Dar'ya some 100 k'lometers from the Takhia Tash construction site, (7) enough marble and limestone to supply the whole project with lime have been discovered. (8) Contrary to previous reports, the sand of the Kara-Kum desert can be used in making silicate bricks which have been proved equal to the best silicate bricks in existence. (9)

On 21 October 1951, K. Satpayev, president of the Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR, stated that the problem of finding suitable sand for concrete work had at last been solved by the academy's Institute for Fireproofing and Construction Materials. A small increase of cement in the concrete allows the use of fine Kara-Kum sonds in the mixture. Samples of concrete mixed according to this method withstood all the tests required.(10)

The planned Takhia Tash hydraulic center will consist of an earthen dam, a concrete spillway, a powerhouse, concrete structures for the entrances to the two existing irrigation canals, imeni Lenin and Kyz-Ketken, embankments, aqueducts, a navigable lock, settling reservoirs, and the first section of the Main Turkmen Canal. (11) The settling reservoirs will be built to prevent silt from going into the canal. Amu Dar'ya carries down about 300 million cubic meters of silt annually. (12) A large scale model of the settling reservoirs is being built for testing purposes. (13)

At first, the canal will be dug to pass from 350 to 400 cubic meters of water per second; it will eventually be enlarged to pass 600 cubic meters per second. From Takhia Tash, the canal will run in a southwestern direction and enter the desert of Zaunguzskiye Kara-Kumy. By-passing the Sarakamysh depression on the east, the canal will enter the ancient bed of the Uzboy River near the well in the Charyshli Oasis which is 30C kilometers from Takhia Tash. After running through the Uzboy bed for 600 kilometers, the canal will leave it near the Kel'kop salt marshes and run for 200 kilometers to the Caspian Sea. (14)

The engineering, geological and other surveys will be intensified in 1952 along the entire length of the canal. More than 20 large expeditions were active on the canal site as late as October 1951.(2) The surveying parties were on the job again in February, because spring weather had set in a month earlier than usual. It is expected that in 1952, 30 scientific expeditions consisting of 5,000 persons will be active on the canal site.(15) One of them, a new geophysical expedition organized in January by the Ministry of Geology USSR has arrived at Tashauz, headed by A. Simernitskiy, the acting chief. The expedition will investigate seismic and tectonic conditions on the canal site. An aeromagnetic survey of an area of 70,000 square kilometers, and seismographic geophysical, electric geophysical, and gravimetric explorations will be carried out in an area of 30,000 square kilometers.(16)

A meeting of the committee to assist the construction of the main Turkmen Canal took place on 10 September and was attended by Eristov, the chief engineer of the construction; Tagan Berdyyev, president of the Academy of Sciences Turkmen SSR; Popova, Deputy Minister of Health, Turkmen SSR; Natko, representative of the Ministry of Communications USSR at the Council of Ministers Turkmen SSR; Berdyyev, chairman of the Presidium of the Turkmenbirleshik \_Turkmen

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Cooperative Union?, and others. The attention of the members was drawn to the duplication of work resulting from the failure of the Academy of Sciences Turkmen SSR to coordinate the activities of the numerous expeditions working on the canal site. It was also reported that the problem of providing the expedition workers with medical, cultural and educational services has not yet been

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