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COUNTRY: Syria/Jordan/Iraq/Cyprus

SUBJECT: Highway Construction Projects

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1. The government of Syria has under consideration a program to improve and extend its road system. Important points of the program include:
  - a) Construction and asphaltting 465 km of roads in northeast Syria where most of the cereal crops are produced
  - b) Construction of a 95-km asphalt highway between Hama-Masyaf-Damascus, which links the cotton growing district of Homs-Hama to the Mediterranean coast
  - c) Construction of an asphalt road between Homs and Tartus to pass through Lebanese territory and by-pass the Safita mountains.
2. Highways now being built by the Jordan Development Board with aid of UK development loans are progressing satisfactorily. The road from Amman to Kerak is completed as far as Wadi Mujid. Considerable improvement has been made, meanwhile, on the route from the Port of Aqaba to the rail terminus at Naqb Ashtar. Work has been started, at the same time, on the Naqb Ashtar-Ma'an road.
3. Survey work is being done now for the construction of a new road from Kirkuk to Sulamaniya along an entirely new route. The cost of this road together with two other important road projects planned by Iraq will total nearly US\$15 million. The two other projects are the Baghdad-Kirkuk and the Tasloojah-Dokan highways.
4. One of the outstanding projects planned by the Cyprus Public Works department is improvement of the Famagusta-Nicosia-Xeros road. Since discontinuance of railway service in Cyprus, this road is essential to transport of heavy ores from mines at Xeros and for the import of heavy machinery through Famagusta. Another road will be built also to parallel this route for the villages previously served by the railway.

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