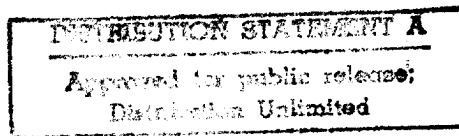


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# Near East/South Asia Report

SYRIA: REVIEW OF 1984  
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

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4 June 1985

## NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

### SYRIA: REVIEW OF 1984 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

[Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 13 Mar 85 pp 5, 8, 9]

[Article: "On 22d Anniversary of Blessed 8 March Revolution, Figures Speak of Important Accomplishments in 1 Year of the Revolution's Life, 1984"]

[Text] Amidst the country's celebration of the renewed pledge of a third presidential term for President and Leader Hafiz al-Asad, the 22d anniversary of the glorious and pioneering 8 March revolution touched off by the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party is a torch and an example to be followed in rebelling against backwardness, in fighting the Arab nation's enemies and in marching on the paths of progress and development.

The year 1984 was distinguished by weighty events that deserve a pause. With the country's perseverance and steadfastness and with its fight against the forces of oppression, the capitulation accord between Lebanon and the Zionist enemy was abrogated in order that Lebanon may regain its freedom and in order that its good forces may proceed to deal blows to the Zionist enemy desecrating its soil. The country continued its development march despite current international and regional economic conditions. The accomplishments continued to come in succession in the form of construction, agricultural, irrigation, land reclamation, industrial, mining and conversion projects, not to mention the big expansion experienced by the various activities of the communications and transport sectors, the continued expansion of the educational services at all levels, the delivery of preventive and curative health services to the largest number of the country's citizens, the supplying of electricity to the majority of the rural population, the supplying of clean water to all provinces and to most of the country's villages as well as numerous other accomplishments which will be noted in this pamphlet on accomplishments.

If the country has been able to achieve these accomplishments in another year of the revolution's life, a vigilant political leadership, ceaseless efforts and wise and sound guidance by Leader and President Hafiz al-Asad have been behind these accomplishments.

Arab Syria now faces 1985 with firm resolution and with the big asset of great accomplishments which give it momentum to proceed with the same strides to achieve still more accomplishments this year and to enhance the people's living standard under the canopy of the generous sacrifices of the revolution and of the instructions of its leader, President Hafiz al-Asad.

## First, Income and Production

The value of the 1984 gross domestic product amounted to 131,424,000,000 Syrian pounds, compared to 124,743,000,000 Syrian pounds in 1983, i.e., an increase of 5.3 percent over 1983. This sum reflects the value of the goods and services produced by Arab Syria in 1984.

The value of the gross domestic yield, i.e., the gross revenue generated by the value of the local product in 1984, amounted to 81,446,000,000 Syrian pounds, achieving an increase of 5.6 percent over 1983. In 1983, the yield value amounted to 77,098,000,000 Syrian pounds.

The population's average per-capita income rose from 8,022 Syrian pounds in 1983 to 8,200 Syrian pounds in 1984.

As a result of the policy of consumption rationalization, final consumption amounted to 65,612,000,000 Syrian pounds, compared to 68,872,000,000 pounds in 1983, i.e., a drop of 5 percent. This consumption is divided into private consumption, amounting to 48,412,000,000 Syrian pounds compared to 53,585,000,000 Syrian pounds in 1983, i.e., a drop of 9.6 percent, and public consumption, amounting to 17.2 billion Syrian pounds compared to 15,287,000,000 pounds in 1983, i.e., an increase of 12.5 percent.

The increase in production and income led to an increase of the value of investment spending made by the public and private sectors to 19,227,000,000 Syrian pounds, with the investments made thus amounting to 23.6 percent of the 1984 gross product. This percentage demonstrates the size of financial resources, which have been obtained mainly from the country's production capacities.

In 1984, the value of the public sector's investments amounted to 12,485,000,000 Syrian pounds, which was divided as follows between the various sectors:

	Investments [millions of Syrian pounds]	Percentage
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests	2,024	16.2
Mining Industries	708	5.6
Conversion Industries	1,008	8.1
Electricity, Gas and Water	1,144	9.2
Building and Construction	352	2.8
Commerce	359	2.9
Transport, Communications and Storage	1,689	13.5
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	480	3.8
Collective, Social and Personal Services	4,735	37.9
Total	12,485	100.0

In 1984, the value of exports amounted to 10,161,000,000 Syrian pounds, an increase of 6.2 percent over the 1983 exports, which amounted to 9,566,000,000 Syrian pounds.

In 1983 and 1984, the gross domestic product was divided between the economic sectors in the manner demonstrated in the following chart:

Sector	1983	Gross Product [percent]	1984	Gross Product [percent]
Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries	15,401	20.0	15,828	19.4
Industry, Mining and Energy	14,561	18.9	14,873	18.3
Building and Construction	4,875	6.3	5,280	6.5
Commerce	19,253	25.0	20,605	25.3
Transport, Communications and Storage	5,875	7.6	6,480	8.0
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	4,131	5.3	4,463	5.4
Collective, Social and Personal Services	13,002	16.9	13,917	17.1
Total	77,098	100.0	81,446	100.0

#### Second, Sphere of Planning and Development

After the issuance of presidential Decree No 6 of 19 May 1984, the State Planning Authority formed the committee for drafting the Sixth 5-year Economic and Social Development Plan and then formed the Central Technical committee and the sectoral committees.

The timetable for completing the various phases of drawing up the Sixth 5-year Plan for the 1986-90 period was drawn up. The first phase, which provides for a study on the economic conditions of the various sectors in the 1979-83 period, has been completed. The two next phases, which provide for an evaluation of the Fifth 5-year Plan and for establishing the base year for the new plan, have also been initiated.

It is expected that the draft Sixth 5-year Plan will be ready by the end of July 1985.

The authority has reviewed and examined a number of economic and technical feasibility studies for a number of important projects listed in the Fifth 5-year Plan and has presented its opinion to the prime minister's office. Most of the studies have been approved and implementation of the projects concerned has been started.

Special attention has been devoted to the question of joint investment, a number of investment requests made by citizens of the Arab and foreign countries have been examined and the proper recommendations have been made in this regard.

A followup has been made on the projects utilizing foreign loans and credit facilities in order to utilize these loans on time. Moreover, a number of scientific and technical cooperation protocols have been concluded between Syria and various countries. Financing agreements have been concluded with friendly countries and with Arab and international organizations.

The country's industrial survey activities have been continued since the completion of the first stage of this survey. It is expected that the outcome of this survey will be put to use in the process of developing the industrial sector in the Sixth 5-year Plan.

### Third, Irrigation, Agriculture and Land Reclamation

#### A. Accomplishments of 1984 Production Plans:

The drought conditions prevalent in the country this year [1984] had a negative impact on production volume, especially on the winter crops. The following quantities were produced:

Wheat: 1,068,000 tons.  
Barley: 303,000 tons.  
Beets: 1,269,000 tons.  
Cotton: 451,000 tons.  
Chick peas: 36,000 tons.  
Lentils: 35,000 tons.  
Olives: 342,000 tons.  
Grapes: 447,000 tons.  
Apples: 126,000 tons.  
Citrus fruits: 91,000 tons.  
Milk: 1,040,000 tons.  
Red meats: 150,000 tons.  
Poultry meats: 82,000 tons.  
Eggs: 1,598,000,000 eggs.

The private sector with its various organizations contributed the following portion of the production: 13,348 tons of milk, 926 tons of red meat, 6,623 tons of poultry meat and 170 million eggs.

A total of 16.04 million fruit-tree seedlings, amounting to 136.5 percent of the targeted production, were produced.

A total of 22.4 million forest-tree seedlings, amounting to 102 percent of the targeted production, were produced.

A total of 8.7 million pasture-land seedlings, amounting to 87 percent of the targeted production, were produced.

A total of 64,795 tons of wheat seeds, 14,954 tons of potato seeds, 30,133 tons of cotton seeds and 190 tons of yellow corn [millet] were produced. All these quantities exceed the targeted production by large percentages.

A total of 133,000 tons of various fodders, amounting to 83 percent of the targeted production, were processed. Moreover, a total of 981,000 tons of various natural fodders, amounting to 64 percent of the targeted production, were sold and 404,000 tons of various fodder materials were imported.

The quantities of fertilizer used in 1983-84 amounted to the following: 10,948 tons of nitrogen fertilizer, 63,728 tons of phosphorus fertilizer and 5,721 tons of potash fertilizer. All these quantities exceed the quantities used in 1983 by nearly 18 percent.

#### B. Projects Completed or Expanded by the End of 1984:

An area of 17,000 hectares was reclaimed within the framework of the fruit-tree cultivation plan, with an implementation rate of 114.5 percent. This is in addition to 1,827 hectares reclaimed within the framework of the green belt project and cultivated with fruit-bearing trees.

An area of 12,200 hectares was afforested with a variety of forest trees, with an implementation rate of 102 percent of the targeted plan.

The area cultivated with drought-resistant pasture seedlings amounted to 6,215 hectares distributed over the various governorates.

An area of 214,800 hectares was marked off and allocated, with an implementation rate of 114 percent of the targeted plan.

A total of 87 guidance units were established out of a total of 105 units targeted in the plan. The other units are in the final stages of completion.

A total of 2,061 guidance fields for summer and winter crops and of 1,032 orchards were planted for the purpose of instructing farmers in modern agriculture and in the use of advanced technology. A total of 7,752 field days, attended by more than 105,000 farmers, were also conducted.

A total of 271 training courses in various agricultural specializations were held and 5,011 trainee agricultural engineers took part in them.

A cattle farm was set up in Dayr Ba'labah, in Hims, and entered the phase of production.

A project to develop wire mesh fish-breeding cages in Lake al-Asad was completed, with the number increased to 200 cages.

A total of 16 centers for the maintenance and repair of agricultural machinery were opened.

A total of 62 mobile maintenance workshops for repair work in the field were put into operation.

Eighty percent of the project to complete the central fodder laboratory and 70 percent of the work to build the fodder storage facilities as completed.

#### C. Projects Expected To Be Completed in 1985

Completion of seven cattle farms with their complements in Maknasah and Tall Tamr.

The Aleppo workshop for the maintenance of agricultural machinery.

A chicken farm to produce egg-laying hens in Marj al-Sultan, Damascus, with a capacity to produce 1.4 million day-old chicks a year.

A chicken farm to produce egg-laying hens in Hasya, Hims, with a capacity to produce 1.4 million day-old chicks a year.

A chicken farm to produce pullets for consumption in al-Maghayir, Aleppo, with a capacity to produce 6.4 million day-old pullets a year.

A chicken farm to produce pullets for consumption in Hasya, Hims, with a capacity to produce 6.4 million day-old pullets a year.

An egg production farm in al-Juraymaqiyyah, Latakia, with a capacity to produce 30 million table eggs and 700,000 chicks a year.

An egg and pullet production farm in al-Raqqah with a capacity to produce 30 million eggs and 700,000 pullets.

A farm for the production of fish fingerlings in al-Thawrah, the enlargement of al-Zabadani fishery and the development of sea fishing.

Doubling of the size of the plan to cultivate fruit and forest trees in accordance with the instructions of his excellency the president of the republic to the Higher Afforestation Committee.

#### D. Projects Under Construction and Their Expected Dates of Operation:

The project to develop the chicken farm section in Saydanaya, of which 26 percent has been completed and which is expected to be put into operation in the second half of 1986.

The project to develop the (Feedlot) poultry installations, of which 51 percent has been completed and which is expected to be put into operation in the second half of 1986.



The 'Akkar chicken farm project, of which 10 percent has been completed and which is expected to be put into operation in the second half of 1987.

Al-Ghab cattle farm project, of which 25 percent has been completed and which is expected to be put into operation in 1987.

Maskanat al-Khammah cattle farms, of which 90 percent have been completed and which are expected to go into operation in 1987.

The Tall Tamr cattle farms, of which 90 percent have been completed and which are expected to go into operation in 1986.

Al-Thawrah fish-fingerlings project, of which 60 percent has been completed and which is expected to go into operation in 1985.

The project to develop al-Zabadani fishery, of which 80 percent has been completed and which is expected to go into operation in 1985.

The project to develop sea fishing, of which 40 percent has been completed and which is expected to go into operation in 1985.

## II. [as published] Ministry of Irrigation:

### 1. Euphrates Dam Public Organization:

A total of 1,895,000,000 kilowatt/hours of electricity have been produced, amounting to 86 percent of the targeted production.

Work continues on al-Ba'th Dam, of which nearly 60 percent has been completed and which is expected to be fully completed in the first half of 1987.

The work to elevate the dam continues and the project is expected to be completed at the beginning of 1987.

### 2. Public Land Reclamation Organization:

#### A. Projects Completed by End of 1984:

The Central Euphrates project covering an area of 24,000 hectares.

Bi'r al-Hashim project covering an area of 10,000 hectares in al-Bulaykh basin.

The Upper al-Salhabiyah canal project with a length of 18 km in al-Bulaykh basin.

The draining complexes in the Lower Euphrates Valley, Zone No 1.

The drainage complexes in the Lower Euphrates, Zone No 2.

### B. Projects Expected To Be Completed in 1985:

The inlet to the main lower canal for irrigation of al-Bulaykh basin lands, with a length of 18 km.

The drainage wells in Zone No 1 of the Lower Euphrates.

The drainage complexes in Zone No 2 of the Lower Euphrates.

### C. Projects Under Construction and Their Expected Completion Dates:

The remaining part of section No 1 of al-Bulaykh basin, covering an area of 10,000 hectares, is expected to be completed in 1988.

The second section of the main lower canal, with a length of 52 km, is expected to be completed in 1988.

Improving drainage in the pioneer project, is expected to be completed in 1990.

Completion of the drainage network for 21,000 hectares, is expected to be completed in 1989.

The West Maskanah project in an area of 20,000 hectares, is expected to be completed by the end of 1988.

The main pumping plant for West Maskanah, of which 94 percent of the first stage has been completed. The entire project is expected to be completed by the end of 1987.

The 52-km long main draw canal for West Maskanah, of which 83 percent of the first stage has been completed. The project is expected to be completed in 1988.

The project for the first-stage drainage in Zones No 2 and No 3 of the Lower Euphrates is expected to be completed in 1986.

The irrigation and drainage project for Sector No 7 of the Lower Euphrates is expected to be completed by the end of 1988.

The project for a road network in 21,000 hectares in Maskanah is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

### 3. Irrigation Directorate's Projects:

#### A. Projects Completed or Expanded by End of 1984:

Drilling wells in the semi-desert: 66 wells, out of a total of 124 wells, have been drilled.

The irrigation networks for Ruwayhinah Dam and Nab' al-Sakhr and Ballunah springs in al-Qunaytirah Governorate to irrigate 150 hectares.

The Nattunah and al-Dalabuz irrigation networks and Taldu Dam irrigation network in Hims Governorate to irrigate 1,040 hectares.

Balluran Dam irrigation network in Latakia Governorate to irrigate 1,000 hectares.

The project to elevate al-Rum Dam and al-'Ayn Dam and to make repairs on Khazinah Dam in al-Suwayda' Governorate.

#### B. Projects Expected To Be Completed in 1985:

Drilling and lining 38 wells in the semi-desert and preparing 33 wells which are expected to be completed in 1986.

The irrigation network for East Dar'a Dam to irrigate 600 hectares in the second stage of the project and the irrigation network for al-Shaykh Maskin Dam to irrigate 1,100 hectares.

Improvement of the Hims-Hamah irrigation network, with the Hamah section to be started first, is expected to be completed in 1986.

Completion of fire irrigation networks in Latakia Governorate for the dams of Kafr Dubayl, Karasanah, al-Qanjārah, al-Jawziyah and Khirbat al-Jawziyah.

'Adwan Dam in Dar'a Governorate, with a storage capacity of 6.5 million cubic meters of water for irrigation.

Al-Zulfa Dam in al-Suwayda', with a storage capacity of 9.5 million cubic meters of water for drinking and irrigation.

#### C. Projects Under Construction and Dates at Which They Will Go into Operation

Salah-al-Din Dam in al-Safraqiyah, which will cost 45 million Syrian pounds, is expected to be completed in April 1986.

Al-Huwayz Dam in Latakia, which will cost 16.5 million pounds, is expected to be completed in February 1986.

Wadi Abyad Dam in Hims, which will cost 24 million pounds, is expected to be completed in the second half of 1986.

Shabba Dam, which will cost 19 million pounds, is expected to be completed in the second half of 1986.

Burayqah Dam, which will cost 10 million pounds, is expected to be completed in May 1986.

Ghadir al-Bustan Dam, which will cost 52 million pounds, is expected to be completed in June 1986.

#### 4. Public Organization for Utilization and Development of Euphrates Dam:

The organization's production figures were as follows:

Wheat: 16,360 tons.  
Barley: 1,848 tons.  
Cotton: 4,592 tons.  
Beets: 61,027 tons.  
Corn: 4,223 tons.  
Other crops: 6,440 tons.

This is in addition to 2,529 tons of milk, 132 tons of meats, 877 tons of fruits and 897 tons of onions.

#### Fourth, Industry and Mining

##### A. Accomplishments in 1984 Production Plans and Volume of Production Achieved in Comparison with 1983

The volume of the ready-for-sale production turned out by the public industrial companies in 1984 amounted to 7.84 billion Syrian pounds out of the targeted production of 9,319 million Syrian pounds, i.e., with an implementation rate of 84 percent. Meanwhile, the value of the actual production amounted in 1983 to 7,175 million Syrian pounds, meaning that the 1984 production was 9 percent more than the 1983 production.

Each of the production branches contributed by the values and percentages listed below:

The textile organization produced 2,011 million Syrian pounds worth, amounting to 83 percent of the targeted production. The organization's 1983 production amounted to 1,811 million pounds.

The food organization produced 902 million Syrian pounds worth, amounting to 79 percent of the targeted production. The organization's 1983 production amounted to 831 million pounds.

The engineering organization produced 1,082 million Syrian pounds worth, amounting to 69 percent of the targeted production. The organization's 1983 production amounted to 1,229 million Syrian pounds.

The engineering organization produced 1,259 million Syrian pounds worth, amounting to 66 percent of the targeted production. The organization's 1983 production amounted to 1,424 million Syrian pounds.

The cement organization produced 1,376 million Syrian pounds worth, amounting to 91 percent of the targeted production. The value of the organization's 1983 production amounted to 1,166 million Syrian pounds.

The cement organization produced 1,025 million Syrian pounds worth, amounting to 196 percent of the targeted production. The value of the company's 1983 production amounted to 205 million Syrian pounds.

The sugar, cement and textile organizations achieved the highest rate of implementation in their production plans.

The volumes of the most important commodities produced in 1984 amounted to the following:

Cement: 4,279,000 tons, an increase of 15 percent over 1983.

Sugar: 199,000 tons.

Glass: 15,100 tons, an increase of 27 percent over 1983.

Varied yarn: 38,000 tons, an increase of 3 percent over 1983.

Iron rods: 84,000 tons, an increase of 2 percent over 1983.

Electrical motors: 302,000 motors, an increase of 123 percent over 1983.

Electricity transformers: 897,000 transformers, an increase of 44 percent over 1983.

Various textiles: 27,300 tons, an increase of 3 percent over 1983.

Woolen rugs: 509,000 square meters, a drop of 23 percent in comparison with 1983.

Ready-made clothing: 1,756,000 pieces, an increase of 27 percent over 1983.

Batteries: 205,400 batteries, an increase of 7 percent over 1983.

Aluminum sheets: 3,100 tons, an increase of 24 percent over 1983.

Tractors: 3,602 tractors.

Paints: 891,000 gallons, an increase of 22 percent over 1983.

Asbestos: 28,800 tons, an increase of 19 percent over 1983.

Porcelain: 31.8 million tiles, an increase of 41 percent over 1981.

Vegetable oils: 20,800 tons.

Silk rugs: 124,600 square meters.

Soft yeast: 8,700 tons, an increase of 76 percent over 1983.

The value of the actual sales in 1984 totaled 7,758 million Syrian pounds, amounting to 84 percent of the targeted sales. This sum amounted to 11 percent more than the 1983 sales.

The value of the actual exports in 1984 amounted to 424 million pounds yielded by exports from the various industrial branches.

B. Projects Completed or Expanded by the End of 1984:

Completion of the civilian works contracted for al-Hasakah and Dayr al-Zawr yarn project and the carded wool project in al-Ahliyah.

Completion of the installation of the polyester-frizzing machinery in the nylon plant and the installation of five looms in the rug plant.

Completion of the construction of the buildings and installations in the following companies: the Aleppo Oil Company, the Muzayrib Preserve Company, al-Sahil Preserve Company, the Hims Dairy Company, al-Sharq Company in Aleppo, the Gharawi Biscuit Company, al-Suwayda' Grape Company and the Yaqin Plant.

Purchase of the needed equipment and machinery, some of which have been put into operation and utilization.

Construction of the biscuit production line in al-Sharq Company and purchase of the pressing and crushing lines for al-Suwayda' Grape Company.

Completion of the project for the quadrilateral telephone cable production line of the Damascus Cable Company and development of the telephone cables.

The start of regular production in the solar energy plant of the Construction Company.

The plant for the production of the pastic containers needed to bottle liquid detergents has been equipped.

The furnace for the production of chloric acid has been installed in the paper mill and construction of the warehouse for paper dough has been started.

The third and fourth production lines of the Tartus Cement Plant have been put into operation, each line with a capacity of 1,600 tons a day.

The third operation line of 'Adra Cement Plant has been put into operation, with a capacity of 1,000 tons a day.

The two yeast plants in Damascus and Aleppo have been put into operation.

The fermentation plant and the electric-power generating equipment have been delivered to the Hims Sugar Company, where the civilian construction works have been started.

### C. Projects Expected To Be Completed in 1985

The carded wool project of al-Ahliyah Company, Aleppo, with a capacity of 1,980 tons, will begin production in the first quarter of 1985.

Completion of the enlargement of al-Suwayda' Grape Processing Company to double its production.

Enlargement of al-Yarmuk Macaroni Company in Dar'a with two new lines for the production of spaghetti and vermicelli.

Mechanization of the work at the peanut company in Tartus. It is expected that this will be completed by the end of 1985.

Mechanization of the onion plant in order to reduce the waste and to overcome the problem of manual labor. It is expected that this project will be completed in the third quarter of 1985.

Beginning of the delivery of the Aleppo dairy plant at a cost of 42 million pounds and the equipment for this plant at a cost of 32 million pounds.

The solvent production line in the Aleppo Oil Plant at a cost of 18 million pounds. It is expected that the first unit will be completed in 1985.

Replacement of the two lines for the production of carbonated drinks in Buqayn and al-Duraykish.

Replacement of the tomato line in the Damascus Preserves Plant and installation of a new line for jelly production at a cost of 11 million pounds.

Enlargement of the capacity of the Hamah Oils Plant from 20,000 tons to 100,000 tons of seeds.

The following will be done in the engineering industries organization: irrigation piping made of aluminum and drip-irrigation networks made of plastic will be produced, the casing line in the Hamah Piping Plant will be enlarged, the Latakia Aluminum Plant will be enlarged, plastic irrigation piping will be produced, agricultural tools and trailers will be produced in al-Walid Plant in Hims and a workshop for the production of antennas will be built at the Aleppo Electronics Company.

Chemical industries organization: a line for the production of electric bulbs will be installed at the Electric Light Company and a pottery furnace will be installed at the Public Glass Production Plant in Damascus.

Cement organization: the asbestos sheet production line in Dummar will be modified to increase its production from 5,000 tons to 20,000 tons, and to diversify this production, a new porcelain plant with a capacity of 45 million tiles a year will be set up in Aleppo, the production capacity of the existing plant will be increased from 20 million to 30 million tiles and the cement vocational training center in 'Adra will be completed.

Sugar organization: the project to enlarge the Hims Yeat Plant and the project to prevent pollution in the Damascus and Aleppo yeat plants will be implemented.

The number of workers totaled 67,179 workers by the end of 1984 and were distributed as follows: 24,807 textile workers, 12,816 workers in chemical industry, 9,146 workers in the engineering industries, 6,512 workers in the cement industry, 6222 workers in the food industries, 3,503 workers in the sugar industry and 1,173 in the tractor industry.

The number of graduates from the 2 vocational training complexes in Damascus and Aleppo was 813 and the number of those graduating from the middle-level institutes in the various industrial branches came to 355 graduates.

In the sphere of marketing, a booklet has been prepared in both Arabic and English on Syria's exports and on the names of the exporting agencies and it has been distributed to the Syrian trade attaches abroad and to the foreign trade attaches in Syria.

Marketing missions were sent to a number of Arab and foreign countries and they concluded contracts for the export of yarns, fertilizers, cement and glass.

In the Sphere of Industrial Experiments and Research:

The studies concerning the production of (Bazolani) and (Silisi) varieties of cement and the studies on the elimination of salinity from al-Jubaysah oilfield production have been carried out and implementation of the quality-control regulations has continued in a number of industries, such as cement, sugar, iron, paints, plastic sheets used in the land reclamation projects and construction materials.

Regarding the Private Sector:

The number of projects licensed in 1984 amounted to 1,280 projects in the engineering, chemical, food and textile industries with a total capital of 387 million pounds and employing 4,845 workers.

The number of projects implemented in 1984 came to 1,056 in the above-mentioned industries with a capital of 132 million Syrian pounds and employing 3,520 workers.

Public Tobacco Organization:

The volume of the cigarette, pipe and Persian tobacco (for the narghile) produced came to 12,736 tons valued at 1,048 million Syrian pounds and amounting to 96 percent of the targeted production.

The completion rate in al-Qardahah warehouses project was 77 percent, in the Damascus warehouses 5 percent and in the project for the replacement and renewal of machinery 22 percent.



#### Public Cotton Ginning and Marketing Organization:

A total of 523,450 tons of seed-containing cotton were received and the entire volume was ginned at an implementation rate of 100 percent.

The volume of ginned cotton amounted to 195,568 tons, compared to 167,690 tons in 1983. The volume of the cotton seed amounted to 318,595 tons, compared to 254,422 tons in 1983.

A total of 157,071 tons of ginned cotton were exported in 1984, with a value of 1,116 million Syrian pounds.

#### Fifth, Energy and Fuel

##### First [as published], Electric Energy:

A contract has been concluded to supply the equipment for the Tishrin thermal energy plant, with a capacity of 400 megawatts, and to supervise the installation of this equipment. A contract has also been concluded with the Military Housing Organization to construct the athletic and residential buildings.

The first phase of the study on building a nuclear power plant--a phase that is concerned with determining the site for this plant--has been completed.

The offers to enlarge the Mihradah power plant have been studied and referred to the authorities concerned and a contract is being drawn up. A bid invitation to enlarge the Baniyas power plant has also been advertised.

A total of 101 km of powerlines with a 230-kilovolt capacity have been installed, the most important being al-Thawrah-Maskanah line with a length of 85 km. It is expected that 122 km of 230-kilovolt capacity lines will be installed in 1985, the most important being al-Thawrah-al-Ba'th Dam line with a length of 46 km and the second the Baniyas-Tartus line with a length of 35 km.

A total of 192 km of powerlines with a 66-kilovolt capacity has also been completed, the most important being the Latakia-Ra's al-Basit line with a length of 35.5 km. It is expected that 509 km of powerlines with a 66-kilovolt capacity will be completed in 1985, the most important being al-Hasakah-Ra's al-'Ayn line with a length of 77 km, Bi'r al-Hashm-Tall Abyad line with a length of 78 km and Fayruzah-Hasya al-Nabk line with a length of 85 km.

The Aleppo 230/66 kilovolt transformer plant--Plant B--has been completed and it is expected that Dayr al-Zawr plant will be enlarged in 1985.

A number of 66/20 kilovolt transformer plants have been built in al-Qahtaniyah, al-Mayadin, Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, al-Bukamal and Maydash. Six other plants have been enlarged.

A number of overhead and underground power distribution lines with a capacity of 20 kilovolts and with a total length of 1,431 km have been installed. Moreover, a total of 2,130 km of power distribution lines with a capacity of 4 kilovolts have also been installed.

A total of 1,374 prefabricated aerial transformers with a capacity of 20/4 kilovolts have been installed in buildings.

A total of 146,368 new subscribers have been supplied with electricity, with an increase of 14,890 subscribers over 1984 [as published].

A total of 977 villages were supplied with electricity in 1984, thus raising the number of electrified villages to 5,886 villages by the end of 1984. The number of electricity users has been raised to 88 percent of the country's total population.

The concrete pole production plant in Dayr al-Zawr has been enlarged and the first concrete pole production line in Hims has been inaugurated.

#### Electric Power Produced:

The country's electric power production in 1984 amounted to 6,897 million kilowatt/hours equaling 97 percent of the targeted production and with an increase of 9 percent over 1983 production, which amounted to 6,313 million kilowatt/hours. It is expected that power production will rise in 1985 to 7,454 million kilowatt/hours.

A total of 112 assistant engineers in the fields of steam power generation, electricity control and power distribution have been graduated from the Intermediate Electricity and Mechanics Institute.

#### Second, Oil and Mineral Wealth:

##### A. Accomplishments in 1984 Plan and Production Volumes in Comparison with 1983 Production:

Crude oil production amounted to 9,417,000 cubic meters, compared to 9,359,000 cubic meters in 1983.

The total length of the exploratory wells drilled in 1984 came to 70,273 meters, compared to 47,815 meters in 1983.

The total length of the production--developmental--wells drilled came to 138,601 meters.

Geophysical surveys were conducted on 25,038 sites, compared to 24,118 sites surveyed in 1983.

A total of 5,217,000 tons were sold to the outside world.

A total of 4,341,000 tons were sold at home.

A total of 9,493,000 cubic meters of Syrian crude oil were transported, compared to 9,254,000 tons transported in 1983.

#### Oil Refining:

A total of 5,197,000 tons of crude oil were refined in the Hims refinery, compared to 4,885,000 refined in 1983.

A total of 5,306,000 tons of crude oil were refined in the Baniyas refinery, compared to 4,409,000 tons in 1983.

The volume of Syrian crude oil refined in the two refineries came to 33,920 tons, compared to 30,362 tons produced in 1983.

Gas sales amounted to 18,913 bottles, compared to 16,458 bottles sold in 1983.

#### B. Projects Completed or Expanded by the End of 1984:

The plant for processing the oil-associated gas produced was completed and its operation was started in the first half of 1984. It will be put into full operation to produce 22,250 tons of gas for household use, 4,500 tons of solvents, 13,120 tons of benzine and pentane 5,550 tons of sulfur and 128.5 million cubic meters of clean gas.

A fourth plant was built in al-Suwaydiyah to absorb the new wells and has been put into temporary operation.

'Awdah Plant was built to utilize 'Awdah field and was put in to manual operation by the end of 1984.

The project for 432 housing units in al-Rumaylan was completed and the units were distributed to the beneficiaries at the end of 1984.

The project for 40 housing units in al-Thawrah was completed and the units were distributed to the beneficiaries at the end of 1984.

Al-Jubaysah-Tall Tishrin road, with a length of 35 km, was completed. Also completed was the 9 km road linking the two Tishrin wells to al-Hawl village.

Utilization of the majority of the storage tanks in Hims and Baniyas was started. The tanks were built to store oil derivatives. The shipping plants in Hims and Baniyas are about to be completed, except for installation of the sensitive equipment.

The initial delivery of the electronic computers for the linkage network has taken place. The (moorings) and marine cables have also been delivered. The tests on this equipment have been carried out.

### C. Projects Expected to Be Completed in 1985:

The plant to process and pump gas from the gas field area to the nitrogen fertilizer plant in Hims is expected to be completed at the end of 1985, considering that 51 percent of the processing plant and 60.6 percent of the mechanical work in the pipeline have been completed.

Completion of the temporary complex linking the wells drilled in Sa'idah, Zarrahah, 'Awdah, Dahhab, Safih, Dayru and al-Salihyah and to begin experimental production at these wells.

Completion of the Tall 'Adas-Karatshuk road.

Completion of the study on the Hims conversion plant and construction of this plant within the framework of the crude oil shipping projects.

Completion of the study on developing the Tartus terminal and start of implementation of the civilian works within the framework of the crude oil storage tank projects.

Modification of the lines for aircraft kerosene and replacement of the liquefied gas line between the Baniyas refinery and the bottling plant.

Completion of the project for the mechanical control of fires in the storage tank areas in Hims and Baniyas.

Completion of the sixth expansion project in Hims refinery at the end of September now that 90 percent of the equipment has been supplied and 60 percent of the civilian works have been built.

Enlargement of the mechanical workshop in the Baniyas refinery, drilling of nine artesian wells and completion of the workers club.

### 2. Public Geology and Mineral Wealth Organization:

A total of 1,515,000 tons of phosphate was produced.

A total of 38,000 tons of salt (rock salt and marine salt) was produced.

A total of 655,000 tons of quartz sand was produced.

A total of 14,500 tons of asphalt paste was produced.

A total of 31,000 tons of crushed asphalt was produced.

A total of 7,078 cubic meters of marble blocks was produced.

A total of 211,000 square meters of marble sheets was produced.

A total of 71,000 square meters of sectioned marble sheets was produced.

A total of 96,000 tons of crude gypsum was produced.

A total of 932,000 tons of phosphate was sold abroad and a total of 347,000 tons was sold at home.

B. Projects Completed by the End of 1984:

A new concentration unit with a capacity of 1 million tons a year was installed and put into operation at the Khunayfis mines.

A new concentration unit with a capacity of 1 million tons a year was installed and put into operation at al-Sharqiyah mines.

The railroad was linked to al-Sharqiyah Plant--Plant B--to transport 400,000 tons of phosphate a year by railroad.

A total of 100 housing units were built in Khunayfis and delivered to the workers. The workers building was also completed.

The Damascus and Latakia marble plants were completed.

Warehouses with a capacity of 10,000 tons were built at the salt mines.

C. Projects Expected To Be Completed by End of 1984 [as published]:

The Khunayfis dehydration plant to raise the dehydration capacity to 1 million tons is expected to be completed in the first half of 1985.

The storage and loading project in Tartus.

The water desalination plant in al-Sharqiyah and Khunayfis.

The Latakia gypsum plant is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 1985.

Sixth, Transportation and Communication:

Roads:

A. Accomplishments in the 1984 Production Plan:

In 1984, a total of 125 km of main two-lane roads and 84 km of autostrads (four-lane roads) were completed, thus increasing the length of the roads supervised by the ministry to 5,230 km, including 481 km of autostrads, out of the country's total length of asphalted roads, amounting to 18,432 km.

The ministry implemented 94 percent of its investment plan. The total sum spent on road projects in 1984 amounted to 598.6 million Syrian pounds.

B. Projects Expected To Be Completed by End of 1985:

The Ma'lula-Hims extension (third, fourth lanes) of the Damascus-Hims autostrad, with a length of 105 km and at a cost of 100 million Syrian pounds.

The Damascus-Lebanese borders autostrad, with a length of 40 km, will be completed.

The Hims-Tartus autostrad, with a length of 83 km and a total cost of 420 million Syrian pounds, will be completed.

The Aleppo-Tall Kawjak road, with a length of 456 km and a total cost of 543 million Syrian pounds, will be completed.

The Hazanu-Idlib road, with a length of 14 km and a cost of 25 million Syrian pounds, will be completed.

President Hafiz al-Asad Bridge on al-'Asi River has been completed at a cost of 20 million Syrian pounds.

C. Projects Under Construction and Their Expected Completion Dates:

The Damascus-Jordanian borders autostrad, with a cost of 580 million Syrian pounds, is expected to be completed in 1988.

Al-Ghab-al-Sahil road, with a total cost of 140 million Syrian pounds, is expected to be completed in 1986.

Al-Suwayda'-Damascus road, with a cost of 160 million Syrian pounds, is expected to be completed in 1986.

Al-Bukamal Bridge on the Euphrates, with a cost of 30 million Syrian pounds, is expected to be completed in 1986.

The Latakia-Tartus autostrad, with a cost of 530 million Syrian pounds, is expected to be completed in 1986.

The Damascus-Lebanese border autostrad is expected to be completed by the middle of 1985.

2. Telecommunications:

A. Accomplishments in the 1984 Plan:

A total of 35,731 automatic telephones were installed and put into operation in the country's various governorates. The implementation rate amounted to 102 percent of the targeted plan. Thus, the total number of the country's main automatic and electronic telephone subscriptions has risen to 346,013 subscriptions. The ratio in the main telephone lines now amounts to 4.15 telephones for every 100 citizens. Moreover, the planned buildings, networks and their complements were also completed.

A total of 14,127 manual and semi-automatic telephone lines were installed in the country's rural areas, with an implementation rate amounting to 128 percent of the targeted plan. Thus, the number of manual and semi-automatic telephone lines in the country amounts to 69,956 lines.

The buildings for the following rural telephone centers have been built: Ra's al-'Ayn, Azra', al-Mashta, Shaykh Badr, Harim, Busra al-Sham, Duraykish, al-Qaryatayn and Bayt Yashut.

A number of villages have been linked to the automatic telephone network. These villages fall within a circle with a diameter of 8-10 km in the centers of Tartus, Safita, al-Qardahah, Jablah and al-Nabk.

Radio communications have been introduced through a single channel to link numerous rural centers with the automatic centers. The radio complexes, for which contracts had already been concluded, were also introduced.

By the end of 1984, the number of telex subscriptions amounted to 1,909 subscribers. The capacity of the telex exchanges also rose to 5,500 telex lines after installation and enlargement of the country's exchanges to reach a capacity of 5,000 telex lines.

The number of circuits for communication between the cities rose from 4,993 circuits in 1983 to 8,949 circuits in 1984, an increase of 79 percent.

The number of automatic telephone circuits for international communication came to 1,269 circuits, compared to 487 circuits in 1980.

The number of local telephone calls was 510 million, an increase of 11 percent over 1983.

The length of the city-to-city calls within the country amounted to 61 million minutes, compared to 60 million minutes in 1983.

The number of international calls mounted to 11 million calls, compared to 10.6 million calls in 1983.

The length of the international telex calls came to 2.1 million minutes, compared to 1.9 million minutes in 1983.

The country's manual and automatic exchanges were enlarged in 1984, reaching a capacity of 452,096 lines by the end of the year.

The ground station for satellite communication was modified to operate with the satellite [as published] and the station's capacity was increased to 106 circuits.

#### B. Projects Expected To Be Completed in 1985:

The main and subsidiary microwave communications project to coverage of the cities and the main regions and to reactivate the old project complete.

The Palmyra-Iraqi border microwave project to link Arab Syria with Iraq.

The project to link Damascus with Beirut through a reserve for the previous system.

Installation and operation of 31,000 automatic, electronic, semiautomatic and manual lines.

#### C. Projects Being Implemented and Their Expected Dates of Completion:

The project to link Damascus with Amman and Saudi Arabia by coaxial cable. The advisory services have been completed and the bids are being currently studied. It is expected that the project will be put into operation in the second half of 1988.

The project of the ground station for space communications (Intersputnik) is expected to be put into operation at the end of 1986.

The Arab satellite (Arabsat) project to establish a ground station linked to the Arab satellite to ensure telephone, cable, television and radio communications with the Arab countries is expected to be put into operation in 1986.

#### 3. Public Postal Organization:

A total of 17 post offices and 12 branches were opened in 1984, compared to 11 offices, 11 branches and 1 section in 1983.

A total of 26 buildings were constructed jointly with the Public Telecommunications Organization.

The organization's total production revenues amounted to 40 million Syrian pounds, or 103 percent of the targeted plan.

It is expected that 25 buildings will be constructed jointly with the Public Telecommunications Organization, that 25 offices, 5 branches and 15 sections will be opened in the various parts of the country and that the Idlib, al-Hasakah and Ghazalah buildings will be completed in 1985.

#### In the Sphere of Transportation:

##### 1. Syrian Arab Airlines Organization:

The organization flew 1,136,000,000 passenger/km, thus achieving its production plan, or an increase of 13 percent over 1983. The organization also shipped 28 million ton/km, an increase of 14 percent over 1983. The organization's total revenues amounted to 503 million Syrian pounds, or an increase of 14 percent over the 1983 revenues.



Three new aircraft were purchased from the Soviet Union. The first will be delivered in the middle of this year and the training of the flight crews needed to operate these aircraft will begin.

Seventy-five percent of the ground equipment and instruments that help aircraft land and take off have been purchased.

## 2. General Civil Aviation Directorate:

Air traffic volume at Damascus International Airport amounted in 1984 to 11,377 arriving and departing aircraft, which transported 1,513,712 passengers, 6,427 tons of goods and 1,282 tons of mail.

The passenger buildings at Damascus International Airport and at Latakia Airport were completed.

A study on the passenger building at Aleppo Airport was completed and implementation of the first phase of the study was started.

Ninety percent of the first phase of the project to build and expand aprons and supplementary access roads to Damascus International Airport was completed.

Ninety percent of the customs shed was completed and it is expected that the hall in its entirety will be completed in 1985.

Nearly 60 percent of the work to plant trees around the airport was completed in 1984.

## 3. Maritime Transportation--Syrian Maritime Company:

The company's ships transported 66,546 tons.

## 4. Latakia Port Public Company:

The volume of goods imported by way of Latakia Port amounted to 1,256,000 tons and that of goods exported by way of this port amounted to 362,000 tons. A total of 1,059 ships frequented the port.

The work on the piers, provided for in the first phase of the project to enlarge the port, was completed and the piers were temporarily handed over to the port authority last May.

Ninety percent of the filling work, planned to form yards behind the piers, was completed. The volume of the filling work carried out amounted to 3.7 million cubic meters.

Nearly 23 percent of the concrete work in the four warehouses being currently built was completed.

5. Tartus Port Public Company:

The volume of goods imported via Tartus Port amounted to 3,297,000 tons and of goods exported via the port amounted to 964,000 tons. A total of 861 ships frequented the port. The volume of imported goods rose by 48 percent over 1983.

The completion rate in the long-term storage warehouses, the crated goods warehouse, the transit warehouses, the storage yards and the roads amounted to 67 percent.

Railroad Transportation:

6. The Syrian Public Railroad Organization:

The volume of goods transported in 1984 amounted to 3,897,000 tons, with an increase of 25 percent over 1983.

The number of railroad passengers came to 2.85 million, an increase of 59 percent over 1983.

A total of 553,000 tons were transported from Latakia Port and 692,000 tons from Tartus Port by railroad.

The Aleppo-Hamah railroad line was put into operation after completion of the renewal work on the line.

Commodity and passenger transporting trains were put into operation between Damascus and Aleppo and between Damascus and Tartus.

A total of 1,352 new employees were appointed, thus bringing the total number of railroad workers to 7,907 workers by the end of 1984.

7. Internal Transportation:

The total number of passengers carried by the internal transportation companies by the end of 1984 amounted to the following:

Damascus Transport Company: 184 million passengers, with an implementation rate of 83 percent.

Aleppo Transport Company: 181 million passengers, with an implementation rate of 98 percent.

Hims Transport Company: 84 million passengers, with an implementation rate of 85 percent.

Latakia Transport Company: 23 million passengers, with an implementation rate of 100 percent.

Al-Qubun maintenance workshop of the Damascus Transport Authority, which is capable of workshop in Aleppo was also completed. A number of lines were modified and extended to serve remote and new residential areas.

Seventh, in the Sphere of Building and Construction

(Public Construction Companies):

Ministry of Construction:

Projects Under Construction, Implementation Rates and Expected Completion Dates:

The project to prevent flooding in the city of Tartus: three flow-off canals and the eastern protection canal were completed and put into use.

Ninety-eight percent of al-'Ajami flow-off canal was completed and the canal is expected to be put to use on 1 June 1985.

The eastern and western al-Ghamqah bridges were completed and are expected to be put to use in the first quarter of 1986.

Modification of al-Ghamqah River course: 70 percent of the project has been completed and the project is expected to be put to use in the first quarter of 1986.

The project to build the supervisors institute in Hims is expected to be put to use in the second half of 1986.

1. Public Irrigation Construction Company:

The value of the construction work completed in 1984 amounted to 341.5 million Syrian pounds, with an implementation rate of 99 percent of the targeted plan and compared to 261 million pounds worth of construction in 1983.

A. The following projects were completed by the end of 1984:

Bi'r al-Hashm-Upper al-Sahlabiyat project in al-Raqqah Governorate.

The drainage complexes in Zone No 1 of the Lower Euphrates Basin.

Al-Saffan Dam in al-Hasakah Governorate.

The cattle farms, the warehouses and the housing buildings in the Maskanah cattle farms complex.

The irrigation network in al-Shaykh Maskin, the project to draw al-'Abd springs water and the Eastern Dar'a Dam irrigation network in Dar'a Governorate.

Elevation of al-Radm and al-'Ayn dams and repair of the Khazimah Dam in al-Suwayda' Governorate.

The Sunaysil and Hurr Binafsihi water plants and the recoating of a part of the irrigation canals and the vehicle maintenance yard in Hims Governorate.

B. Projects Being Implemented and Their Expected Dates of Completion:

The main canal in al-Bulaykh Basin is expected to be completed in 1987.

The reclamation of 10,000 hectares in al-Bulaykh Basin is expected to be completed in 1987.

The drainage complexes for Zone No 2 of the Lower Euphrates Basin are expected to be completed in 1985.

Ra's al-'Ayn draw canal: 79 percent of the project has been completed and the project in its entirety is expected to be completed in 1985.

The Maskanah cattle farm complex: 90 percent of the project has been completed and the project in its entirety is expected to be completed in 1985.

The draw canal for the 16 November Dam: 75 percent of the work has been completed and the project in its entirety is expected to be completed in 1985.

Al-Fawwar and al-Sa'id springs network: 98 percent of the project has been completed and the entire network is expected to be completed in 1985.

Thirty-nine percent of Salah-al-Din Dam and 43 percent of al-Hywayz Dam have been completed and the two projects are expected to be entirely completed in 1986.

Five percent of Tafs Dam, 2 percent of al-Gharibah al-Sharqiyah Dam and 23 percent of the Tasayyal Dam irrigation networks have been completed. These networks are expected to be completed in 1986.

Ten percent of 'Adwan Dam and 55 percent of Ghadir al-Bustan Dam have been completed. Both dams are expected to be completed in 1986.

The development of Hims and Hamah irrigation networks is expected to be completed in 1986.

The construction of a number of schools in Hamah, al-Silmiyah and Gharb al-Mashtal is expected to be completed in 1986.

The construction of a number of service buildings, housing units, office buildings and other premises is expected to be completed in 1986.

## 2. Construction Work Company:

The value of the work completed in 1984 amounted to 206.2 million Syrian pounds, or an implementation rate of 94 percent, compared to 187.7 million pounds worth of work completed in 1983.

### A. Projects Completed in 1984:

The Tishrin Bridge in Damascus; President Hafiz al-Asad Bridge in Hamah; the 16 November Bridge in Aleppo; the Latakia flour mill in the city of Latakia; the Hims bypass; al-Hasakah Bridge; al-Mukawwabah Bridge; a bridge on the Orontes river over the al-Rustun Dam sluice; the Hims, al-Raqqah and Idlib grain silos; the agricultural mechanization project in Aleppo; and the first phase of the intermediate institute.

### B. Projects Expected To Be Completed in 1985:

The Aleppo-Manbaj-Qarah Qawraq road, of which 79 percent has been completed, is expected to be completed in the first half of 1985.

Al-Damir-'Adra railroad sidetrack, of which 66 percent has been completed, is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 1985.

The Hims passenger station, of which 44 percent has been completed, is expected to be completed at the end of 1985.

The Damascus railroad shipping station, of which 67 percent has been completed, is expected to be completed at the end of 1985.

The Hamah grain silos, of which 82 percent has been completed, are expected to be completed in the first quarter of 1985.

The rural revitalization project, of which 52 percent has been completed, expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 1985.

The Tishrin University water storage tank project, of which 55 percent has been completed, is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 1985.

The Najha Bridge project and repair of the 'Arabayn Bridge.

### Projects Under Construction and Expected To Be Completed After 1985:

Al-Firdaws multi-level parking garage is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 1986.

The Dummar consumer commodity warehouses is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 1986.

Baniyas-al-Sinn autostrad is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 1986.

Al-Bukamal Bridge is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 1986.

This is in addition to a number of other service buildings.

Syrian Road Construction Company:

The value of the work accomplished in 1984 amounted to 250 million Syrian pounds, with an implementation rate of 91 percent of the targeted plan of 275.4 million pounds.

A. Work Accomplished by the End of 1984:

Hims Governorate: the Hims bypass, al-Mukharram-Abu Hakfah road, al-Qaryatayn-the phosphate intersection road, al-Faraqlis-Palmyra road, the Hims southern entrance road and the industrial secondary school in Hims.

Hamah Governorate: the Hamah sidetrack, the Hamah-al-Sulamiyah road, the Hamah-Misyaf road, the Hamah-al-Ghab-Mihradah road, the industrial zone streets, the municipal streets in Hamah and the paving and asphaltting of a number of other roads.

Tartus Governorate: the Safita-transmission station road, the southern resort road, the chalets autostrad in Tartus, Duwayritah-Kawkab al-Hawa road and the paving, asphaltting and maintenance of a number of other roads.

City of Jablah: the 19-km long al-Sahil-al-Ghab road and maintenance of the Latakia-Tartus road.

B. Projects Expected To Be Completed in 1985:

Shoring up the Hims-Hamah road and maintenance of the old Hims-Palmyra road and of the transit yard in Hims.

Hamah-al-Ghab road and al-Shughur-Misyaf-al-Shaykh Ghadban road.

Al-Sulamiyah-al-Nadi-Marj Mudar road, Tartus-al-Duraykish road, the Safita-Duraykish road, al-Naqab-Tayshur road and Duraykish-Wadi al-'Uyun-Tartus northern entrance road.

C. Completed Percentages of Projects and Expected Dates of Their Completion:

The Tartus-Baniyas autostrad is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

The Baniyas-Latakia autostrad is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

The two bridges on al-Ghamqah River in Tartus is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

Al-Sahil-al-Ghab road is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

The rural al-Ghab road is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

Filling the median ditch in the Aleppo-Saraqib road is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

#### 4. Public Concrete Company:

The value of the work completed in the company's projects in 1984 amounted to 130 million Syrian pounds, with an implementation rate of 85 percent of the company's targeted plan. The company also sold 6.1 million pounds worth of concrete mix to other companies.

##### A. Projects Completed and Delivered to The User Agencies in 1984:

The insurance and pensions building in Damascus, the Teachers Union building, al-Wahdah Organization building, the Muhayn-Hims stations, the Muhayn-Damascus stations, the industrial secondary school in al-Baramikah, the internal transport garage in al-Qabun, a total of 232 residential apartments in al-Mazzah, the telephone exchanges in Qatana and Darayya, al-Mazzah fire department, building and utility projects for the 'Adra and Harasta Intermetal Research Center, the 'Adra electricity depots and nylon thread mills.

##### B. Projects Expected To Be Completed in 1985:

The electronics laboratories of Damascus University, al-Thawrah complex for the Ministry of Supply, al-Thawrah Street tunnel, the intermediate industrial institute, the intermediate agricultural institute, the barracks for the security forces, the building for the Public Fruits and Vegetables Company, the thermal treatment building at the Research Center, the Saydanaya chicken farms, the Farmex warehouses in Hims, the government complex in Hims, the consumer complex in Hims, the vegetable markets in Hims and Hamah, the agricultural buildings in al-Nasiriyah and completion of the veterinary laboratory.

#### 5. Public Water Studies Company:

The value of the work completed in 1984 amounted to 32.7 million Syrian pounds, with a completion rate of 95 percent of the company's targeted plan.

The company conducted the following water studies:

A study of the Salhab Dam, a study of the site of Sahwat al-Khadr Dam, a study of the site of the steam plant in Mihradah and a study of the Ministry of Agriculture wells in Aleppo.

The company continues its studies on the following projects:

A study of the Syrian semi-desert basin is expected to be completed at the end of the third quarter of 1987; a study of the site of Abu al-Fayyad Dam is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 1985; and the water studies in al-Tunahphosphate--basin will continue until 1987.

#### 6. Public Water Projects Company:

The value of the work completed in 1984 amounted to 270 million Syrian pounds, with a completion rate of 80 percent of the company's targeted plan. The company carried out the following projects:

A total of 22 water projects were implemented in all of the country's governorates. Work will continue in 1985 to complete 90 more projects located in the various governorates, with most of these projects expected to be completed in 1985.

#### 7. Services and Maintenance Company:

The value of the work completed in 1984 amounted to 102.6 million Syrian pounds, with a completion rate of 93 percent of the company's targeted production plan.

Most of the company's activities were centered in Aleppo where a number of streets were paved and coated with an asphalt layer, telephone networks were repaired and various other maintenance activities were carried out.

#### 8. Jabal Qasiyun Company:

The value of the work carried out in 1984 amounted to 525 million Syrian pounds, with a 100 percent completion rate. The company's surpluses (budget surplus and liquidity surplus) amounted to 94.7 million Syrian pounds. The total number of the company's workers amounted to 10,200 workers and technicians specialized in various fields. The most important projects being implemented by the company include:

Completion of the Damascus-Lebanese border autostrad, the Damascus-Jordanian border autostrad, the northern bypass and the southern bypass, the Qasiyun Suburb roads project, the southern entrance to Damascus and al-Zabadani-Sar'aya the Qasiyun Suburb roads project, the southern entrance to Damascus and al-Zabandani-Sar'aya road.

The company is engaged in large-scale activity pertaining to the development of parks and to afforestation (the People's Palace, the Tishrin Palace, Jabal Qasiyun and the northern bypass right-of-way.

The company carries out the maintenance work for a large number of projects in Damascus Governorate and other governorates, in addition to building projects.

#### 9. Public Land Reclamation Company:

The value of the work carried out in 1984 amounted to 465 million Syrian pounds, with a completion rate of 88 percent of the targeted plan. The most important projects being implemented by the company include:

Al-Ba'th Dam: 92 percent of the 1984 plan was implemented and 102 million pounds were spent on the project.



The inlet to the main lower canal in al-Bulaykh: 79 percent of the 1984 plan was implemented and a sum of 82 million pounds was spent on the project.

The West Maskanah projects, of which 89 percent was completed and on which 281 million pounds were spent. This is in addition to a number of other varied works.

The start of implementation of the project to reclaim 18,000 hectares in East Maskanah.

#### Projects Being Implemented To Be Completed in 1985 or Later:

It is expected that all the construction work on al-Ba'th Dam will be completed in the first half of 1986.

It is expected that the inlet to the main lower canal in al-Bulaykh will be completed in the first quarter of 1985.

It is expected that the 24-km long main draw canal for the irrigation of the West Maskanah plains will be completed in the first quarter of 1987.

It is expected that as of the end of the first quarter of 1987, the distribution of lands for agricultural utilization will begin in the 20,000 hectare land reclamation project in West Maskanah.

#### Al-Rasafah Construction Company:

The value of the projects implemented in 1984 amounted to 233 million Syrian pounds, with an implementation rate of 133 percent of the targeted plan. The following projects were completed.

Construction of 1,216 housing apartments.

Construction of 75 km of first-grade roads.

Construction of seven automatic bakeries.

Construction of 50 schools, each comprising 8-14 classrooms.

Construction of three vegetable markets.

Construction of six flour warehouses.

Construction of the television station building.

Construction of two kindergatens.

Construction of commercial markets comprising 96 shops.

Construction of the building for the Grain Silos Administration.

Construction of the building for the Public Mineral Resources and Construction Organization.

Construction of four warehouses.

Construction of the Minshari Cotton Ginning and Weaving Plant in al-Hasakah.

Construction of water networks with a length of 16 km.

Construction of al-Bukamal automatic telephone building.

Construction of two warehouses for the Public Postal Organization.

Construction of a railroad passenger station.

Construction of the nursing school in al-Hasakah.

Construction of the Petroleum Vocational Institute.

Construction of four veterinary care centers.

#### 11. Public Roads Organization:

The value of the work completed in 1984 amounted to 300 million Syrian pounds, with an implementation rate of 100 percent of the targeted plan. The following projects were completed:

Palmyra-Dayr al-Zawr road.

Hims-al-Luwaybidah road.

The Tall Kalakh sidetrack.

The Qarah Qawzak-'Ayn 'Isa road.

Al-Qabw-al-Qardahah road.

The project for the maintenance of the Aleppo-Saraqib road.

Construction of al-Qamishli flour mill.

Maintenance of al-Hasakah-Dayr al-Zawr, al-Raqqah-Mi'dan-Dayr al-Zawr and Dayr al-Zawr-al-Bukamal roads.

Construction of agricultural airstrips in al-Hasakah and al-Raqqah Governorates.

Construction of Tall 'Allu-al-Ya'rubiyah road.

Construction of the entrance to the city of al-Qamishli.

Construction of the Hazanu-Idlib road.

Maintenance of the Aleppo road, the Aleppo-al-Raqqah road and Idlib-Ariha road.

Construction of al-'Ukayrishah-al-Raqqah-Dayr al-Zawr sidetrack.

Maintenance of the Aleppo-I'zaz-Turkish border road.

Construction of the Aleppo-Qarah Qawzak road.

Construction of the 'Akkari-Tartus road.

Construction of al-Hasakah-al-Hawl road.

Construction of Tall 'Allu-al-Qamishli road.

Public Company for Electrical and Communications Works:

The value of the work completed in 1984 amounted to 212 million Syrian pounds, with an implementation rate of 129 percent of the targeted plan. The most important projects implemented in 1984 were:

Hamah-'Adra 400-kilovolt powerline.

The project to maintain the public administration buildings in Hims and Damascus and to maintain the Damascus International Airport.

The project to light the train stations in Aleppo, Hims and Damascus.

13. Public Construction Company:

The value of the work completed in 1984 amounted to 370 million Syrian pounds, with an implementation rate of 72 percent of the targeted plan. The most important projects implemented in 1984 were:

Completion of the 'Imran Organization warehouses.

Completion of a secondary industrial school in Hims.

Completion of the electronics buildings belonging to the Scientific Research Center.

Construction of six prefabricated buildings in Barzah.

Construction of the buildings of a housing association.

Construction of the auditoriums of al-Ba'th University in Hims.

Construction of the building of the Syrian Commercial Bank.

Construction of a sales hall in al-Mukharrem.

14. Technical Studies and Consultation Company:

The value of the work carried out in 1984 amounted to 49 million Syrian pounds, with an implementation rate of 73.5 percent.

15. Al-Sahil Construction Company:

The value of the work implemented in 1984 amounted to 89 million Syrian pounds, with an implementation rate of 70 percent. The most important projects completed or expanded by the end of 1984 are:

The first phase of the Tishrin University buildings.

The passenger station in Latakia.

The commercial center of the Latakia Religious Trusts Directorate.

The seventh economy housing complex (consumer complex).

The southern consumer complex.

The work to improve the National Hospital in Latakia.

Al-Tala'i' swimming pool.

The passenger hall in Latakia Airport.

The Latakia Port yards.

16. The Public Company for the Construction of Industrial Projects:

The value of the work carried out in 1984 amounted to 132 million Syrian pounds, with an implementation rate of 42 percent of the targeted plan. The following projects were completed:

The sulfur pier in Tartus Port.

The consumer commodity warehouses in al-Suwayda', Jisr al-Shughur, al-Mi'arra, Tartus and Hamah.

The marble plant and gypsum plant in Latakia.

The water projects in al-Raqqah and al-Manajir.

Eighth, in the Sphere of Supply and Domestic Trade:

Consumer goods were supplied throughout the country at moderate prices and good quality.

Agricultural crops, including grains, vegetables and fruits, were directly marketed by way of the producers.

Surplus eggs and chickens were either marketed or stored in refrigerated units to be marketed according to need.

Positive intervention took place to establish a balance in the market with private sector in the sphere of retail commerce in order to stabilize and balance the prices of all goods.

Meats were marketed to meet the needs and the surplus 300,000 head of livestock) was exported to the Arab countries.

Food security is being achieved for the citizens and the state's pricing policy is being implemented to stabilize the prices of essential commodities and goods.

The prices of other products, goods and services are set on economic and social bases so as to contribute to encouraging production and rationalizing consumption.

An advanced central laboratory equipped with the latest instruments has been set up to conduct analyses and to detect any flaws in standards. The number of samples analyzed in 1984 amounted to 8,747 samples. The mobile laboratory also conducted 868 tours in 1984.

#### B. Implemented Part of Production Plans:

The volume of wheat pulverized in 1984 amounted to 1.45 million tons, with an implementation rate of 102 percent of the targeted plan. All of the country's wheat consumption needs were thus met. The volume pulverized in 1984 amounted to 1,251,000 tons.

The volume of bran produced amounted to 351,000 tons of bran, which is good for use as livestock fodder.

The volume of bread produced amounted to 355,000 tons of pocket bread [pita] and 5,000 tons of al-Sammun [thick, round loaves] bread, with an implementation rate of 96 percent of the targeted plan and compared to 253,000 tons produced in 1983, i.e., an increase of nearly 40 percent over 1983.

#### C. Projects Completed in 1984:

The Tishrin flour mill in Latakia was completed, thus completing the project for the construction of 11 flour mills with a daily pulverization capacity of 3,000 tons. Self-sufficiency in flour was achieved and byproducts of pulverized wheat were supplied.

In 1984, the implementation of a new project calling for the construction of 11 mills with a daily capacity of 2,600 tons was initiated.

Fifty-five lines for the production of pocket bread were installed, thus raising the number of lines installed in the country's various governorates to 153 lines, keeping in mind that a line's production capacity is 10 tons of bread a day throughout two work shifts.

A total of 28 semiautomatic lines were installed in the city and the governorate of Damascus, with a production capacity of 8 tons per line over two work shifts.

By the end of 1984, the production capacity of the automatic and reserve bakeries amounted to 500,000 tons. This capacity will rise to 800,000 tons in 1985 now that 72 new automatic lines have been manufactured and will be installed and put into operation in 1985.

Two new refrigeration units were built in al-Suwayda' and Latakia, each with a capacity of 21,000 cubic meters. Thus, the capacity of the refrigeration units built in the country amounted to 150,000 cubic meters by the end of 1984.

In 1985, three refrigeration units will be built in Latakia, Tartus and Hims, each with a capacity of 21,000 cubic meters. Two other units will be built in Damascus, with a capacity of 26,000 cubic meters, a unit in Hamah with a capacity of 7,000 cubic meters and a unit in al-Qunaytirah with a capacity of 4,000 cubic meters. The refrigerated storage capacity will thus rise to 250,000 cubic meters in 1985.

Consumer commodity storage warehouses with an area of 21,400 square meters were built, thus raising the technical storage area to 146,750 square meters, keeping in mind that these warehouses are equipped with mechanical instruments, such as cranes, conveyor belts, scales, fire-extinguishing equipment and calculators.

Two silos were built in Tall Burak, al-Hasakah, and in Mihradah, Aleppo, within the framework of the plan to purchase loose grains. Contracts for five small silos have also been concluded.

Contracts were concluded and the construction of two silos in Damascus and Aleppo, each with a capacity of 100,000 tons, has been started.

Within the framework of the expansion plan, contracts were concluded and construction has been started to build silos with a capacity of 530,000 tons. Forty-five percent of the construction work has been completed.

A large part of the construction of 30 grain warehouses with a storage capacity of 129,000 tons has been completed. These warehouses will be fully completed in 1985.

A modern laboratory has been completed to conduct laboratory tests and analyses on grains and wheat in accordance with the latest scientific methods.

Three new consumer complexes have been built in al-Raqqah, al-Hasakah and al-Suwayda', thus raising the number of the country's consumer complexes to 16.

Ten new salesrooms and 90 new sale centers have been built, thus raising the numbers to 325 halls and 486 centers.

The number of markets selling fruits and vegetables to the consumer has risen to 84 and the number of wholesale centers belonging to the Fruits and Vegetables Company has risen to 60.

Storage, sorting and packaging centers have been built in Damascus, Aleppo, Latakia, Hims and Hamah. A plant for the production of net bags and packaging machines has also been built.

The number of halls selling textile products to the consumer has risen to 57 halls in the various governorates, the number of centers selling shoes has risen to 21 and the number of centers selling meats has risen to 26 centers.

#### D. Projects To Be Completed in 1985:

Seven consumer commodity warehouses will be built in the various governorates, with a total area of 24,000 square meters.

Eight consumer complexes will be built, three of them in Damascus (al-Zablatani, Tahunat al-Ahmar and al-Thawrah Street) and the others in Hims, Hamah, Aleppo, Latakia and Dayr al-Zawr. Moreover, 200 centers selling to consumers in the towns and villages lacking such centers will also be built.

The construction work for the refrigerated potato warehouses in Hims and Hamah will be completed. These warehouses will have an area of 15,000 square meters.

Construction of the fruit and vegetable storage and distribution warehouses in Damascus Governorate, with a total area of 12,000 square meters, will be completed.

The cardboard container plant, with an annual capacity of 8,000 tons of containers, will be completed.

A total of 43 halls for the retail sale of fruits and vegetables and a number of wholesale center in a number of the country's governorates will also be built.

#### E. Implemented Part of the Plans of the Domestic Trade Organizations:

The domestic sales of the Grains Organization amounted to 2,071,500,000 Syrian pounds and its foreign sales amounted to 94 million pounds.

The sales of the Consumer Organization amounted to 2,164 million pounds and its purchases amounted to 1.92 billion Syrian pounds.

The sales of al-'Imran Organization amounted to 3,557 million pounds and its purchases amounted to 2,674 million pounds.

The sales of (Sundus) Organization amounted to 342 million pounds and its purchases to 356 million pounds. The sales of the Public Retail Trade Organization amounted to 919 million pounds and its purchases to 770 million pounds.

The sales of the Public Fruits and Vegetables Organization amounted to 770 million pounds and its purchases to 619 pounds. The company exported a surplus of fruits and vegetables valued at 29 million pounds.

The sales of the Public Storage and Refrigeration Company amounted to 122 million pounds and its purchases to 117 million pounds. The company's storage revenues amounted to 28 million pounds. The company absorbed a large part of the private sector's surplus.

The sales of the Public Meat Company amounted to 361 million pounds in domestic sales and 133 million pounds in foreign sales. Its purchases amounted to 422 million pounds.

The sales of the Public Shoe Company amounted to 27.5 million pounds and its purchases to 23 million pounds.

The number of cooperative consumer associations rose to 75 in 1984 and the number of their sale outlets amounted to 310. The association's sales reached nearly 250 million Syrian pounds.

Ninth, in the Sphere of Finances and Banks:

The Ministry of Finance has drafted a law for a tax on gross income. In its main provisions, the bill seeks to combine the various sources of income in the country and to subject them to a tax scale and to unified rates, taking into consideration a modification of the minimum limits allowed and the rates of the specific taxes.

The actual profitmakers have been divided to six categories, each of which is required to keep records compatible with the commercial, non-commercial and industrial professions in which it is engaged and to pay estimated taxes directly to the financial departments concerned.

Nearly 85,000 outstanding taxes accumulated in the governorates have been checked and most of the those owed over the decades have been eliminated.

The draft tax disclosure law for specific taxes on income and other things has been completed and it will have a positive impact on the tax revenues.



The budgets and final accounts of the economy-related public organization were examined immediately upon their delivery with the aim of determining the actual annual economic surpluses which must be delivered to the Public Debt Fund.

The capital invested by all the public organizations, companies and installations has been studied according to the economic sector to which each belongs. All the requests concerning the public sector's capital needs have also been studied and decisions have been made on these requests.

#### Regarding Building Projects:

A major part of the skeletal structure of the premises of the Damascus Financial Directorate has been completed and the building is expected to be completed by the end of 1985.

The skeletal structure of the Aleppo Financial Directorate building has been completed and it is expected that it will be finished and put to use by the end of 1986.

The facing of the Latakia Financial Directorate building has been completed and it is expected that the entire project will be completed and the building will be put to use in 1985.

A contract was concluded for building the premises of the Tartus Financial Directorate and construction was begun at the end of 1984.

Studies have been completed on buildings for the financial directorates of Dayr al-Zawr, al-Raqqah, al-Hasakah, Idlib and Dar'a.

The studies on a new premises for the government printing press and Official Gazette have been completed. This premises is expected to cost nearly 37 million Syrian pounds.

#### Regarding Customs:

Ninety percent of the project for the Hims customs yards, 75 percent of the project for the Judaydat Yabus customs yards and 10 percent of the project to develop the Dar'a customs yards have been completed.

The Customs Administration has implemented its plan to combat smuggling within the framework of the available resources. A number of officers and technical employees have been trained and graduated.

#### Public Social Insurance and Pensions Organization:

The organization's new building has been completed and supplied with the needed requirements and the organization's buildings are being moved to this new building.

Accounts have been opened for the organization in all of the country's banks with the purpose of facilitating matters for retirees and their heirs. The organization has set up the nucleus of its branches in most of the country's governorates.

#### Banks:

The Popular Loan Bank's investments rose from 738 million pounds to 871 million pounds, an increase of 18 percent. The bank's deposits rose from 1,646 million pounds to 2,312 million pounds, an annual increase of 40 percent.

The revenues of the investment certificates rose from 2,090 million pounds to 2,697 million Syrian pounds, achieving an annual increase of 29 percent.

The Industrial Bank's 1984 investments amounted to 330 million Syrian pounds, including 55 percent in the public and joint sectors. The bank's deposits amounted to 817 million Syrian pounds, achieving an increase of 38 percent over the targeted plan. The public sector's deposits represent 87 percent of the total deposits.

The 1984 investments of the Cooperative Agricultural Bank amounted to 1,961 million Syrian pounds, including 51 percent in the cooperative sector and 48 percent in the private sector. These investments exceed the 1983 investments by nearly 361 million pounds as a result of encouraging agricultural loans in the spheres of afforestation, mechanization, irrigation and livestock breeding and also as a result of higher financing ceilings and facilitated loan procedures.

Construction of the technical storehouses in the various governorates has been completed at a cost of 31 million pounds. Offices were also built or purchased in the provincial capitals of four governorates.

The total sum of the loans advanced by the Real Estate Bank in 1984 amounted to 825.7 million Syrian pounds, which helped finance 11,325 housing units for people with a limited income. The cooperative housing associations got 50 percent of the loans whereas individual citizens with a limited income got 26 percent of the loans.

The total sum of the deposits and savings placed in the Real Estate Bank amounted to 3,665 million pounds, an increase of 13 percent over the targeted plan.

The total sum of the deposits and savings placed with the Syrian Commercial Bank amounted to 14,023 million Syrian pounds, an increase of 17.3 percent over 1983.

The loans and credits advanced, mostly to finance foreign trade transactions, amounted to 18.18 billion pounds, a drop of 5 percent below 1983.

## 10. Services Sphere:

### I. Housing and Utilities:

#### A. Drinking Water:

a. In the cities: the percentage of beneficiaries using potable water in the provincial capitals rose from 99 percent to 99.5 percent in 1984. The average per-capita consumption rose from 178 liters per day to 187 liters per day. Production rose from 374,913,000 cubic meters in 1983 to 374,947,000 cubic meters in 1984.

b. In the countryside: the percentage of beneficiaries using potable water rose from 61 percent in 1983 to 65 percent in 1984 and the average daily per-capita consumption rose from 65 liters in 1983 to 67 liters in 1984. Production rose from 146,046,000 cubic meters in 1983 to 143,037,000 cubic meters in 1984.

The water organizations in the provincial centers are carrying on with their projects to improve the water sources and to install distribution networks in order to supply water to all the urban population. Most of these organizations have completed the majority of their projects and put them into operation.

#### Water Projects Being Implemented in 1984:

##### Bayt Yashut Water Project:

Most of the civilian works pertaining to the project's first phase have been completed. Construction of the project will continue in 1985.

The Arwad water project to supply potable water from the main storage tanks of the city of Tartus to Arwad Island. The civilian works have been started. The naval waterline reaching the island will be installed and the project will go into operation at the end of 1985.

The Jawrayn-Salanfah water project: a contract for the project has been concluded and implementation will begin in 1985.

Al-Ash'ari-al-Thawrah water project in Dar'a Governorate: the first phase has been completed and the second phase of the project, which will supply 30 villages with water, is expected to be completed in 1985.

Implementation continues in a number of projects, of which we will note, for example:

In Dayr al-Zawr Governorate: Turayf, al-Busayrah, al-Sur, Hibran and Diban projects.

In Tartus Governorate: al-Hamidiyah, al-Mintar and al-Dulbah water projects, the Tartus water network and the Kafr Hawaya and Dawrayn water projects.

In al-Suwayda' Governorate: Nab' al-Tinah, Jabal al-'Arab Dam, Buraykah and the adjacent villages and al-Mushannaf projects.

In al-Raqqah Governorate: al-Tabaqah water network, Dibsi and the adjacent villages, the network for al-Bulaykh and adjacent villages and al-Mansurah water projects.

In Hamah Governorate: Jawrayn project to supply water to the Hamah Governorate villages.

Latakia Governorate: the first and second groups of coastal villages, the fourth group, the Dayrutan project and the Kasab wells project.

In Idlib Governorate: the Jawrayn water project to supply water to Jisr al-Shughur and the adjacent villages.

In al-Hasakah Governorate: the water project for the villages of al-Damma' and Umm Midfa'.

## II. Sanitary Sewerage Activities:

A total of 612 km of sanitary sewers were built in 1984, thus increasing the length of the sanitary sewerage network from 7,236 km in 1983 to 7,848 km in 1984.

The studies on the sewage treatment plants in the cities of Damascus, Hims, Hamah, Aleppo, Latakia and Idlib have been completed and construction of the treatment plant in al-Silmiyah has been started.

## III. Housing Activity:

The following housing units were completed and delivered to the citizens:

A total of 3,000 units in the Hananah area in Aleppo, 300 units in al-Mazzah area and 500 units in the Barzah area.

A total of 480 housing units in Hims Governorate, 400 units in al-Raqqah Governorate, 100 units in al-Hasakah Governorate and 60 housing units in Idlib Governorate.

Three housing complexes with a total of 1,300 housing units were built in Hamah Governorate.

The work continues in order to complete the construction of 20,624 housing units already under construction in all of the country's governorates.

## IV. Topographical and Regional Planning:

A total of 44 topographical surveys covering an area of 9,070 hectares have been carried out and efforts are underway to carry out 86 other plans covering an area of 20,700 hectares.

The limits of on-the-spot topographical surveys for 200 projects distributed in all parts of the country have been set.

A total of 49 organizational plans covering an area of 19,100 hectares in various parts of the country has been completed and the plans for expanding Aleppo, Hamah and Nawa by 10,000 hectares have been delivered.

In the Sphere of Education:

The total number of the country's schools of all levels was 11,458, an increase of 377 schools over 1983.

The total number of male and female students was 2,653,129, of whom 43 percent were female students. There was an increase of 185,318 male and female students or 7.5 percent. The number of students whose education is supervised by the Ministry of Education represent 27.6 percent of the country's total population.

The number of workers of the Ministry of Education and of its agencies came to 101,315 male and female workers, an increase of 7,214 workers over the preceding year.

The number of kindergartens was 493, which accommodated 522,328 children, an increase of 16 percent over 1983.

Elementary education: the total number of elementary school students came to 1,823,684 (45 percent of them girls), an increase of 106,889 students or a 6.2 percent increase over 1983.

The total number of elementary school teachers was 67,086, an increase of 4,127 teachers or 6.6 percent over 1983.

The number of elementary schools was 8,489, an increase of 201 schools.

The number of 6-year-old children enrolled in the first grade came to 95 percent of the total number of children in this age group.

The total number of students enrolled in the preparatory or junior high school, stage amounted to 512,781 students, of whom 39 percent were girls, or an increase of 42,065 students or 8.9 percent over 1983.

The total number of preparatory schools was 1,548, an increase of 188 schools or 6 percent over 1983.

The total number of students in the general secondary, or high school, stage came to 188,539 students, of whom 41 percent were females, or an increase of 15,408 students or 8.9 percent over 1983.

The number of secondary-stage schools was 743, an increase of 46 schools or 6.6 percent over 1983.

The total number of faculty members in the preparatory and secondary schools amounted to 26,369 teachers and administrators, an increase of 1,955 teachers or 8 percent over 1983.

The number of students in the technical secondary schools was 51,594, of whom 22 percent were females, or an increase of 10,111 students or 24.4 percent over 1983. This number was distributed among the following 3 branches of technical education: 36,909 students in industrial education, 12,309 students in business education and 2,376 students in women's vocational education.

The number of technical secondary schools came to 109 schools, including 76 industrial schools, 27 business secondary schools and 6 women's vocational education schools.

The number of students in male and female teachers institutes was 10,581, or an increase of 546 students over 1983. The number of the country's teachers' institutes was 19 and the number of faculty members came to 1,093 male and female teachers.

The number of institutes for training assistant teachers along with intermediate institutes including a total number of 1,726 male and female students, of 968 students. [sentence as published] These institutes teach technical education, music, women's education, mathematics, sciences, English and French.

The number of intermediate physical education institutes came to 10, an increase of 2 institutes over 1983. They included 3,946 students, 50 percent of them females, or an increase of 1,846 students over 1983. A total of 2,480 new male and female students were enrolled.

The number of intermediate technical institutes came to 16, an increase of 3 institutes over the preceding year and including 4,120 male and female students, of whom 7 percent were females.

The number of intermediate technical business institutes came to 4, with a total number of 1,479 male and female institutes, of whom 47 percent were for females and with an increase of 321 students over the preceding year.

Five new institutes for training assistant teachers were opened in the governorates of Dayr al-Zawr, Hims, Hamah, Idlib and Tartus.

A total of 7,281 new male and female students were enrolled in the first year of the 2-year system of the teachers institutes. A total of 3,844 new male and female students were enrolled in the first year of the institutes for the training of assistant teachers.

A total of 20 million textbooks, 5 million school cards and 500,000 copies of geographic illustrations were printed.

Sixty percent of the project to build 55 school infirmaries in the various governorates was completed. The clinics are expected to be fully completed by the end of 1985 and they will include dental, ophthalmological, dermatological, psychological and ear, nose and throat clinics in addition to a dispensary and a laboratory for medical analyses.

Implementation of the school nutrition program continued by offering students a supplementary meal 3 days a week. The number of students benefiting from the meals came to 140,000 male and female students, an increase of 50 percent over 1983.

Training courses were held for teachers, instructors, vocational and technical teachers and administrators. The total number of participants in the branch vanguard camps in the country's various governorates came to 1,392,000 male vanguard youths and 106,204 female vanguard youths.

Educational buildings: 5,000 elementary and secondary branch schoolrooms were completed. At their completion, the number of elementary, preparatory and secondary branches built during the Fifth 5-year Plan, which began in 1981, came to 18,180.

A total of 45 industrial secondary schools were completed, 80 percent of the furniture for these schools was supplied and the schools went into operation. In 1984, the expenditures on educational building projects came to 800 million pounds.

The first educational project provided for by the World Bank to build and equip six teachers institutes and three intermediate industrial institutes was completed and the institutes were furnished by the end of 1984.

#### High Education:

In the 1983-84 academic year, the number of students enrolled in the country's universities came to 175,215 male and female students, an increase of 10.2 percent over the preceding year. They were distributed among the country's four universities as follows:

Damascus University: 71,703 students, an increase of 4.7 percent over 1983.

Aleppo University: 32,618 students, an increase of 9.3 percent over 1983.

Tishrin University: 12,461 students, an increase of 14.3 percent over 1983.

Al-Ba'th University: 6,954 students, an increase of 62.6 percent over 1983.

Higher Political Studies Institute: 475 students.

The number of students in the intermediate institutes controlled by the Ministry of Higher Education--totaling 17 institutes--came to 8,078 students, of whom 38 percent were in the 5 engineering institutes and 12 percent in the 3 medical institutes.

## 1. Damascus University:

The buildings for (digestion and cardiology laboratories) and the service installations in the School of Agriculture were delivered.

A number of buildings of the new school of nursing in Damascus were completed and the project is expected to be completed in 1985.

Fifty percent of the projects of the Pharmacology School were completed and all these projects are expected to be completed by the beginning of 1986.

Thirty percent of the projects of the School of Dentistry were completed and all these projects are expected to be completed in the middle of 1987.

Eighty percent of the project for the auditoriums of the School of Medicine was completed and the entire project is expected to be completed in 1985.

Forty percent of the project of the School of Economy and Business was implemented and the entire project is expected to be completed in 1985.

Twenty percent of the project for the Education College was implemented and the entire project is expected to be completed in 1986.

Fifty percent of the project for the student activity buildings was implemented and the entire project is expected to be completed in 1985.

Twenty-Five percent of the project for the teaching hospital with 640 beds was implemented and the entire project is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

Ninety-five percent of the electronics laboratories were completed and all the laboratories are expected to be completed in 1985.

Forty percent of the housing units of the School of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering were started and all are expected to be completed in 1985.

Construction of nurses housing has begun and this project is expected to be completed in 1987.

The total cost of these various projects amounts to 800 million Syrian pounds.

## 2. Aleppo University:

The following buildings have been completed and delivered:

The building for the Agricultural Mechanical Engineering Section, the emergency surgery building, the expansion of the Civil Engineering College building and the building of the Scientific Heritage Institute.



Work continues on implementing the following projects, which are expected to be delivered in 1985:

The computer center building, the development and enlargement of the School of Engineering (architecture, mechanics and shop), development and enlargement of the School of Agriculture, development and enlargement of the Science College and enlargement of the School of Medicine and of the medical complex building.

Construction of the following buildings is underway and they are expected to be delivered on the dates listed below:

The obstetrics and gynecology building, of which 70 percent has been constructed, is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

The physics and mathematics sections of the Science College, of which 80 percent has been constructed, is expected to be completed by the end of 1985.

The building of the School of Dentistry, of which 75 percent has been constructed, which is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

Two housing buildings for male and female students in Dayr al-Zawr, of which 20 percent has been constructed, are expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

### 3. Tishrin University:

Al-Asad University Hospital, with 276 beds: the project was completed and delivered at the end of 1984.

Five housing units to accommodate 1,280 male and female students: the project was completed and 4 units have been delivered to the university. The fifth unit is in the process of being delivered.

Five buildings with 30 apartments for married professors: the project was completed and 2 buildings have been delivered. The other three are in the process of being delivered.

The skeletal structure of the Agriculture College has been completed and 38 percent of the entire project has been implemented.

The nursing school and the nurses housing: the skeletal structure has been completed, and the finishing work has been started; the completion rate is 38 percent.

The housing unit complex for the students of the intermediate institutes: 50 percent of the project has been implemented and it is expected to be completed by the end of 1985.

Construction of the teaching hospital, with a capacity of 600 beds, a cancer research and treatment center and doctors and nurses housing at a cost of 720 million pounds: 8 percent of this project has been implemented and the project is expected to be completed by the end of 1987.

The administration and library buildings and the main auditorium: 7 percent of the project, expected to be completed by the end of 1986, has been implemented.

#### 4. Al-Ba'th University:

The buildings for the third phase of the Veterinary College buildings: the skeletal structures and 70 percent of the finishing work have been implemented and the project is expected to be completed in 1985.

The project for the Chemical and Petroleum Engineering College: 80 percent of the project has been implemented and this project is expected to be completed in the first half of 1985.

The School of Dentistry project: this project was completed and delivered and has been put to use.

In the Sphere of Social Affairs and Labor:

#### Production:

A total of 65,000 square meters of handwoven woolen rugs were produced, amounting to 90 percent of the targeted plan. Also produced were 22,000 square meters of carpets, amounting to 79 percent of the targeted plan.

The project to build the model institution for training the blind, with a capacity to accommodate 500 blind persons, was completed at a cost of 20 million pounds and has been put into operation.

The intermediate institute for social service was completed and put into operation in the second half of 1984.

A new institute for the mentally retarded and for children afflicted with encephalitis was opened and put into operation at the end of 1984.

#### Projects Under Construction:

Development of the supervisors institute project attached to Khalid ibn al-Walid Institute by introducing 10 new manual vocations. The implementation rate has reached 25 percent and the project is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

The project for the 24 rural development centers: the implementation rate amounted to 27 percent and some of the centers are expected to be put into operation by the end of 1986.

The foundation of a vocational training center for the trainees of the guidance units in Damascus. This center will be put into operation in 1985.

The following projects have already entered the stage of implementation: five day schools for the mentally retarded in the rural parts of Damascus, Da'ra, Latakia, Hims and Dayr al-Zawr, the project to build four homes for the elderly and the disabled in the rural parts of Damascus, Latakia, Hamah and Aleppo and the vocational training center for the disabled in Aleppo.

Six guidance units for the rug and carpet industry began operation and production in 1984 and nearly 3,000 rural women were trained in weaving rugs and carpets and in tricot work.

Social insurance: 78 worker housing units were completed.

The major part of the workers hospital in Damascus, with a capacity of 400 beds, has been completed. This hospital will be completed and put into operation in 1985.

Construction of the workers hospital in Aleppo expected to be completed in 1985, continues.

In the Sphere of Tourism:

The value of the business done by the international hotels in which the state is a partner amounted to 152.3 million Syrian pounds. The state's share of these hotels' net profits amounted to 32 million Syrian pounds.

The Aleppo Meridian Hotel's skeletal structure was built and 40 percent of the finishing work was completed. It is expected that the project will be fully completed and put into operation by the end of 1985.

The skeletal structure of al-Qardahah Hotel was built and 20 percent of the finishing work was completed. The project is expected to be completed in 1985.

Construction work for the Hamah, Dar'a and Idlib tourist hotels was started and these hotels are expected to go into operation in 1987.

Construction work for the tourist center in al-Hilu winter resort and al-Muzayrib tourist center was started.

The public tourist parks in Dar'a, Busra, al-Suwayda' and Dayr al-Zawr were completed and open for public use in 1984. In 1985, parks will be developed in Hamah, al-Sayidah Zaynab, Aleppo, Idlib, Tartus and Latakia Mountains.

The Latakia and Tartus tourist camps are being currently enlarged and their services are being developed.

A preliminary study has been conducted on the mineral springs of Ra's al-'Ayn, Al-Shaykh 'Isa, Dar'a and al-Damir. The necessary studies to utilize these springs for tourist purposes will be conducted. A therapeutic center for treatment with sulfur water has been set up at the Meridian Hotel in Palmyra for use by the citizens and hotel customers.

Completion of the Safita and Dayr al-Zawr hotels.

Development of the hotels in Judaydat al-Wadi has started and an administration building, a restaurant, a cafeteria, a night club, a swimming pool and children's parks have been built. Sixty-five percent of the project have been completed.

In the Sphere of Information:

Radio and Television:

The medium-wave transmission station with a capacity of 100 kilowatts is being built. The station will cover the governorates of Damascus, Hims, Tartus, Dar'a and al-Suwayda' as well as the occupied territories day and night. It will also cover Egypt, the Arab Peninsula and Sudan during the day. The station has been transmitting experimentally for a time.

The first phase of the shortwave center in 'Adra (four 500 kw transmitters) has been completed. This shortwave station will cover all parts of the world and will begin full operation in the next few months.

A contract has been concluded for construction of al-Hasakah station, with a capacity of 4 x 100 kilowatts, to cover the northern part of the country with radio transmissions.

A television station with a capacity of 20 kilowatts has been completed in al-Bukamal and will cover al-Bukamal, al-Mayadin and the neighboring areas.

Al-Sarukhiyah transmission station has been completed and will cover the summer resort areas in al-Zabadani, Bludan, Madaya, Buqayn and Sarghaya.

The 'Ifrin television station has been completed and it will cover the areas of 'Ifrin, Antioch and al-'Umq plain.

'Ayn al-'Arab television station has been completed and will cover the areas of 'Ayn al-'Arab, al-Bab, Manbaj and part of southern Turkey. This station has already started its operations.

The construction of a television transmission station with a capacity of 20 kilowatts has begun in al-Malikiyah. This station will cover part of the northeastern area and part of the Iraqi territories.

#### Al-Wahdah Press, Printing and Publishing Organization:

The organization implemented a major part of its plan to purchase equipment and machinery. Part of the administration and editorial building was also completed. The organization has published the daily AL-WAHDAH in the city of Latakia.

#### Tishrin Press and Publishing Organization:

The organization has implemented its production plan by high rates exceeding the targeted rates. Its profits amounted to 4.25 million Syrian pounds. The organization published 18.8 million copies of TISHRIN, 579,000 copies of the English-language SYRIA TIMES and 1.3 million copies of the newspapers issued by the popular organizations. It also printed 3.5 million textbooks.

#### SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY [SANA]:

The agency has contributed effectively to bolstering cooperation between the Arab news agencies on the one hand and the Asian, Latin American and European news agencies on the other hand. The Union of Arab News Agencies was able to set up reports in West Europe with the aim of conveying Arab news reports from their sources to the European news agencies undiminished and undistorted.

The agency has taken a long stride in cooperating with the agencies of the nonaligned countries and in bolstering these countries' news pool.

The agency has received its new 10-floor building and has set up its transmission station in South al-'Utaybah area.

#### In the Sphere of Health:

In addition to its efforts in supervising the general health situation in the country, in both the preventive and the curative aspects, and in addition to its efforts to combat endemic diseases and to prevent the spread of epidemics, the Ministry of Health has implemented the following:

A technical study has been conducted on building 15 hospitals, each with a capacity of 120 beds, in the country's various governorates. Implementation of the project has begun.

The study on the new al-Zahrawi Hospital has been completed.

Twenty-five percent of the intermediate health institute in Hims and 30 percent of the health institute in Dayr al-Zawr have been built. The two institutes are expected to be completed in 1985.

Damascus City Health Directorate: an emergency center equipped with an intensive cardiac care unit has been set up in Ibn al-Nafis Hospital. A medical center has also been built in al-Zahirah Quarter.

Damascus Governorate Health Directorate:

The Yabrud Hospital has been completed and construction of Darayya Hospital and of the nursing school has begun.

The Yabrud and Saydanaya medical centers have been built, the skeletal structure of Zamalka and Ma'damiyat al-Sham centers has been completed, construction of al-Malihah and Dimas centers has been started and al-Zabadani and Jurmana centers have been enlarged.

Aleppo Health Directorate:

The first and second phases of the Ibn Rushd Hospital project have been completed.

The entire skeletal structure of the new National Hospital in Aleppo has been completed. The skeletal structure and part of the finishing work of Manbaj Hospital have also been completed.

Construction of al-Bab and of I'zaz hospitals, each with a capacity of 120 beds, has been started.

The skeletal structure of the new wing of al-Razi Hospital has been completed and enlargement of the nursing school has been initiated.

Eleven advanced medical centers are being built in various parts of the governorate, in addition to 12 regular medical centers in rural Aleppo.

Idlib Health Directorate:

A new medical center has been built, four existing centers have been enlarged and repairs have been made in the Idlib National Hospital.

Latakia Health Directorate:

The southern wing of the National Hospital has been completed, a new medical center has been built and al-Qardahah medical center has been enlarged.

Tartus Health Directorate:

Construction of the new Tartus hospital continues, with the major part of the project buildings completed.

Hims Health Directorate:

Two floors have been built in the comprehensive clinic and the obstetrics wing of Palmyra Hospital has been completed.

Two contracts have been concluded for building al-Rustun Hospital and Tall Kalakh Hospital and for enlarging four existing medical centers.

Hamah Health Directorate:

Construction of the Misyaf Hospital, of al-Suqaylabiyah Hospital and of the comprehensive clinics building has been started.

Most of the construction work in the nursing school has been completed and four medical centers have been opened, improved upon and enlarged.

Al-Hasakah Health Directorate:

Al-Hasakah nursing and midwifery school has been completed.

The outpatient clinics of the National Hospital in al-Qamishli have been completed and the buildings of three medical centers have been enlarged.

Dayr al-Zawr Health Directorate:

Work continues on finishing the National Hospital and completing the obstetrics wing of this hospital.

Work continues on completing the skeletal structure of al-Bukamal Hospital. Construction of the pediatric and maternal care center has been started.

Al-Raqqah Health Directorate:

Construction of al-Thawrah Hospital in al-Tabaqah has been started.

The tuberculosis control center has been completed and 80 percent of al-Raqqah nursing school has also been completed.

Al-Suwayda' Health Directorate:

The contagious disease and medical quarantine wing, with a capacity of 160 beds, has been completed.

Some sections of the nursing school and the skeletal structures of the two medical centers in al-Sijn and al-Kafr have been completed.

Construction of the Salkhad Hospital, with a capacity of 120 beds, and of 6 medical centers in the governorate's villages has been started. Three pediatric and maternal care centers have been opened.

Dar'a Health Directorate:

Construction of al-Sanamayn Hospital, with a capacity of 120 beds, has been started and the major parts of the two medical centers in Ghazalah and Tafs have been completed.

#### Al-Qunaytirah Health Directorate:

Two clinics and an internal diseases section in al-Ziyadiyah have been opened.

#### In the Sphere of Culture:

##### Printing and Publication:

The Ministry of Culture has published 23 books in the spheres of philosophy, social sciences, fine arts, applied sciences, literature and children's books. The ministry has also published three editions of the magazine AL-MA'RIFAH and four editions of the magazine USAMAH.

##### Writing and Translation:

The ministry sponsored 21 translated documents, was entrusted with translating 21 books and (supported 55 books, authors and translators).

##### Arab Cultural Centers and Libraries:

The ministry organized a conference for the directors of the major Arab cultural centers, the directors of expressionist art centers and the heads of illiteracy-eradication organizations with the members of the executive offices. The ministry also sponsored 71 varied fairs in the country's various governorates.

##### Music Institutes:

The number of students in the Damascus and Aleppo music institutes came to 640 male and female students who have learned to play Arab and Western musical instruments. The two institutes also made extensive efforts to organize Arab and foreign musical shows.

##### Al-Asad Library:

Al-Asad National Library was completed and inaugurated and has begun its activities.

Work to build the National Theatre and to complete the skeletal structures of the theatre and music institutes continues.

##### Antiquities and Museums:

The construction work in the museums of Dayr al-Zawr, al-Suwayda' and Idlib continues, and so does the work on the final engineering studies for the museums of Latakia, Dar'a and al-Hasakah.

Nine foreign archeological excavation missions carried out their programs in various Syrian sites and hills. Two national missions carried out excavation work in al-Khabur and al-Suwayda' areas.



Restoration work continues in 33 archeological sites in all of the country's governorates. These sites include fortresses, schools, temples, amphitheatres, markets, palaces and inns. The most important of these activities are the activities to restore the Damascus fortress tower, the Aleppo fortress, Sam'an fortress, Harim fortress, al-Barah, Murad Pasha Inn, Ibn Wardan Palace, al-Mirqab fortress and other sites.

#### Public Cinema Organization:

In 1984, the organization produced a full-length entertainment film, 10 short films and 12 different advertisement films.

It has provided technical services, including printing, audio development and translation, for 3 full-length films, 23 short films and 33 short documentary films produced by the organization itself and for 17 full-length and short films produced by the public and private sectors.

The organization participated in nine international movie fairs, supplied a number of Arab and foreign circles with documentary films, organized the Syrian Film Week in Cuba and Soviet Film Days in Syria.

#### In the Sphere of Domestic Security:

Seven police stations and six subdistrict stations and six stations and two fuel stations as well as a number of hangars for the police units were built in Damascus and Dayr al-Zawr, [as published].

The Damascus central jail, constituting 30 percent of the required buildings whose construction will continue until 1990, has been put into use.

Sixty-five percent of al-Raqqah jail and 40 percent of al-Suwayda' jail have been completed and the two jails are expected to be put into use in 1987.

Part of the project for developing the central channels has been put to use. [sentence as published]

Thirty-five percent of the political security building, 30 percent of the police hospital, 40 percent of al-Athar branch, 35 percent of the criminal records branch and 40 percent of the police square have been built. These projects are expected to be completed between 1986 and 1988.

#### In the Judicial Sphere:

Construction of the new judicial complex in Damascus has been started.

Eighty percent of the Justice Palace in Hamah was completed.

The lawsuits initiated by the State Lawsuits Administration came to 140,000 cases, distributed among the country's various courts and concerning the various ministries, municipalities and public authorities, organizations and companies. These lawsuits are currently handled by 170 lawyers.

Seventy-seven lawyers, in addition to 20 court clerks, were appointed in the various governorates.

#### Conclusion

The past 4 years of economic and social development in Arab Syria have abounded with accomplishments founded on ceaseless work, relying on expertise gained by experience and distinguished by tests to the credibility of the development planning, of the efficiency of economic and social predictions and of the ability to face international economic changes, especially the changes with comprehensive negative ramifications affecting all countries.

Despite the defense burdens that have been growing year after year because of the need to establish a strategic balance with the enemy and even though Arab Syria has been exposed to waves of economic and political pressure aimed at undermining its interrelated economic, social and defense equation, the political and economic leadership has been able, with its foresight, with the public sector's evident control over the mainstays of the economic structure and with the sound planning and the effective movement of the priorities according to the dictates of the circumstances--the political and economic leadership has been able to overcome varied difficulties and to achieve the following:

1. Set up a broad and advanced base of infrastructures through the construction of a large number of highways, railroads, ports and airports, complete electricity and water networks and irrigation and drainage networks, in addition to constructing and developing a number of assisting service projects, such as hotels, banks and telephone and telex networks.

It can be thus said that the structural obstacles to economic and social development have been completely eliminated and that it has now become possible for projects to be set up, to move forward, to develop and to grow in all spheres.

2. Expand the production base in agriculture and industry while developing industries dedicated to economic, chemical, engineering and metallurgical progress.

3. Implement and develop personal service projects, especially projects that meet collective needs such as the rural electrification projects, the drinking water projects for cities and villages, school buildings for the various stages of education, hospitals, medical centers, libraries, cultural centers and so forth.

Any objective glance at Arab Syria in the 1980's through what has been pointed out above shows clearly that this country has become many times bigger than what it was in the 1960's and 1970's.

Syria's enemies have wagered on their hatched plots and Syria, led by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, has wagered on the faithful and determined people who have proven under all circumstances that nothing can divert them from achieving a goal they have charted for themselves.

On referendum day, these people declared their decisive and resounding word when they said yes to Hafiz al-Asad, the symbol of immortal nationalism, of steadfast pan-Arabism and of lofty accomplishments, and when they said yes to the people's leader who has guided them through difficult circumstances toward the summits of impregnability and dignity and ascended with them the ladder of economic and social progress, turning the modern Syria, the Syria of national unity and of popular consensus and the Syria of steadfastness and confrontation into a model of a country that has its free will and that has become the center of the admiration and respect of the peoples and all free, progressive and honorable men in the world.

The people's masses, with their workers, farmers and producers, now look with great confidence and optimism toward the future. The accomplishments of the past years will turn into a deep foundation for moving toward future phases of development which will put the Syrian Arab people on a par with other peoples who enjoy their blessings, production and resources that are utilized most comprehensively and distributed most justly and with the peoples who are proud of their political struggle, of their social and economic procession and of being the pan-Arab center of the Arab nation. These masses refuse to have anything but the banner of unity, freedom and socialism fly over the greater Arab homeland from the Gulf to the ocean.

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