



Treaty Series No. 75 (1951)

# Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
and the Egyptian Government

regarding the Utilisation of Profits from the 1940 British  
Government Cotton Buying Commission and the 1941  
Joint Anglo-Egyptian Cotton Buying Commission  
to Finance Schemes for Village  
Water Supplies

Cairo, 7th/10th December, 1946

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament  
by Command of His Majesty  
August 1951*

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**EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE UTILISATION OF PROFITS FROM THE 1940 BRITISH GOVERNMENT COTTON BUYING COMMISSION AND THE 1941 JOINT ANGLO-EGYPTIAN COTTON BUYING COMMISSION TO FINANCE SCHEMES FOR VILLAGE WATER SUPPLIES**

*Cairo, 7th/10th December, 1946.*

No. 1

*The Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs to  
His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Cairo*

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

*Cairo, 7th December, 1946.*

WITH reference to the recent discussions with the Financial Counsellor at the Embassy regarding the distribution of the net profits of the 1940 British Government Cotton Buying Commission and the 1941 Joint Anglo-Egyptian Cotton Buying Commission, I have the honour to inform you, on behalf of the Egyptian Government, that upon the British Government undertaking to hand over a half share of their net profits from these two Commissions in consideration of the Egyptian Government's doing likewise (the half share of both Governments thus set aside to be used for the benefit of Egyptian cultivators), the Egyptian Government agree to the proposal of the British Government that such half share handed over by the British Government shall be paid into a special account at the National Bank of Egypt under the control of His Majesty's Ambassador and that this sum together with the interest earned will be used for making payments to the Egyptian Government in connexion with schemes for village water supplies for the benefit of cultivators, a copy of which has been sent to the Embassy and another copy is attached to this letter.

The Egyptian Government further agree that payments from the special account in question will be made by the Embassy in advance half-yearly on the basis of an estimated total expenditure on specified works in the ensuing half-year to be presented by the Egyptian Government. Payments so made would be half the estimated expenditure for the half-year and would be subject to adjustment in respect of any variations between the actual expenditure in the previous half-year or half-years as declared by the Egyptian Government and the estimation previously rendered for the same half-year or half-years.

The Egyptian Government agree to furnish the Embassy, for transmission to the British Government, with six copies of the annual accounts showing expenditure from the contributions of both Governments on each scheme, together with a certificate and report of the Egyptian State Auditor, and, in the meantime, with yearly progress reports.

I am also to confirm that for the purpose of implementing this agreement in the matter of the contribution by our two Governments of half the share of profits accruing to each for the benefit of Egyptian cultivators, the war period shall be deemed to have ended on 31st August, 1945.

I avail, &c.

I. A. EL HADI.

Enclosure

POTABLE WATER SUPPLY IN EGYPT

The supreme task of providing the rural villages of Egypt with adequate supply of potable water, as a means of public health security measures, has been the chief concern of all authorities since 1928.

The present condition in Egypt as regards water supply is that only 25 per cent. of the population receive water which could be considered as potable. The remaining 75 per cent. who at present must use such water as is available, in Nile, canals, ditches, and shallow wells, are usually in a poor state of health as a direct result of utilising such water for drinking and domestic purposes. The conditions become worse during the closure period of canals, lasting about seven weeks each year especially in northern regions of the Delta.

The problem of providing a supply of drinking water for these 75 per cent. of the population is therefore one of great importance and magnitude. This problem has been carefully studied from all aspects with a view to arriving at the best and most economical solutions which satisfy our needs and demands and which are suitable to our local conditions.

All available water in Egypt, whether surface or sub-soil water, is originally Nile water. The Nile water in its raw state is not fit for use; it therefore needs artificial purification and treatment prior to its safe use; however, artesian well water drawn from the underground water-bearing stratas is naturally filtered and can be used with safety in most cases.

Installations utilising artesian well water are naturally cheaper in first cost and running expenses; therefore, it was decided as a general rule to use such water for rural villages wherever it could be easily and economically obtained.

In other districts, where no potable artesian well water can be obtained with economical advantage, such as in the northern parts of the Delta, being near to the salty sea water, or in Fayoum Province, being formed on a rocky bed, it was found necessary to revert to the construction of central water works installations, located in suitable points on the Nile or on its branches which supply villages with purified and treated water through an extensive system of pipe lines, elevated tanks and public taps where water can be drawn free of any charge at all times of the day.

As a result of thorough investigations such large water schemes are to be installed in the following locations:—

<i>Name of scheme</i>	<i>No. of population served in 1957</i>	<i>Estimated cost figured at pre-war prices in £E.</i>
Fayoum ...	574,000	675,000
Bosat ...	820,000	965,000
Sherbin ...	700,000	770,000
Fowa ...	550,000	694,000
Damanhour ...	600,000	694,000
Kafr el Dawar	300,000	347,000
Abbassa ...	700,000	855,000
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>4,244,000</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>

The total cost according to the prevailing prices ruling to-day could be roughly estimated at £E.10,000,000.

Works have been completed in Fayoum Water Works Installation and it has been functioning satisfactorily since 1940, supplying the southern part of Fayoum Province with purified and sterilized water.

Owing to the outbreak of war, contracts have been temporarily suspended for completing the northern part of Fayoum pipe lines, also in Bosat, Sherbin and Fowa Installations, certain parts of which have been already constructed.

As regards the small individual water installations for rural villages, the scheme laid down and approved by the water board entails the classification of all villages according to their population in the following groups:—

- A.—For every village with a population of over 1,200 people a mechanically driven pumping set is required.  
 B.—For every village with a population below 1,200 people a hand pump installation shall be constructed for each 400 people.

According to the statistics made, there are about 2,219 villages in Upper and Lower Egypt of group A, excluding towns and villages lying in the zones of the central water schemes.

Falling under group B there are 10,014 smaller villages each with a population ranging between 100 and 1,200 people and 6,432 "Ezbas" having each a population of less than 100 people. These latter tiny villages, in most cases, belong to landowners. In figuring the initial cost of installing these pumping stations pre-war prices of building material and machinery were taken as a basis. The average present cost, as ruling to-day, could be arrived at by multiplying our initial estimate by two and a half times.

The original estimate could be summarised as follows:—

	£E.
2,219 small mechanical pumping installations ...	1,800,000
10,014 small villages equipped with a hand pump installation for every 400 people ... ..	1,000,000
2,400 Ezbas equipped with hand pump installations excluding these belonging to land owners for which a special law is in preparation enforcing them to construct similar installations at their own expense ... ..	120,000
Estimate for the cost of necessary workshops, transport facilities, spares, &c. ... ..	100,000
Total ... ..	3,020,000
Reserve ... ..	230,000
Grand Total ... ..	3,250,000

The total cost of to-day could therefore be estimated roughly at £E.8,000,000.

The total population who shall benefit from these small installations shall reach 11,500,000 people in 1957.

Generally a mechanically-driven installation includes a small 6 lit./per sec. pump driven by a 5 h.p. diesel engine which draws water from a 4-inch or 6-inch 500 metres deep artesian well and delivers it to an elevated water tank of 15 to 20 metres cube capacity and a height of 6 to 10 metres.

Water is then distributed from this tank to a group of taps from which the people can obtain water at all times of the day free of any charge. Washing basins are also included where clothes, green foods and domestic utensils can be washed.

In some cases public baths are attached to the installations as an added means for body cleanliness.

715

The hand-pump installations are constructed to serve the same purpose only a hand-driven pump is utilised, together with a smaller capacity and lower elevated tank.

These installations are usually placed on the outskirts of villages on an enclosed and guarded area of land to safeguard against pollution of the well water from outside sources.

Economy in construction and lay-out as well as simplicity in operation and maintenance have been the chief factors governing the design of such installations. Standardisation of the different sections of the work was also clearly observed. The average daily consumption per head taken as a basis in the design was reduced to the minimum value of 20 litres as against 150 in large towns, thus limiting the size of the installations.

Several of these installations have been constructed in the last few years and they are in full use and it could be said here that the benefit from them exceeds what was originally expected.

A. A. HAFEZ.

30th October, 1946.

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No. 2

*His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Cairo to the Egyptian  
President of the Council of Ministers, Cairo*

*British Embassy,*

Excellency,

*Cairo, 10th December, 1946.*

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of His Excellency Ibrahim Abdel Hadi Pasha's letter No. 1. 9/16 of 7th December, 1946, of which the text is as follows:—

[As in No. 1]

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that His Majesty's Government are in agreement with the arrangements set out above. It is the understanding of my Government that this exchange of notes shall constitute an agreement between our respective Governments.

I avail, &c.

R. J. BOWKER.

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