

news bulletin

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Wednesday, May 25, 1966

EGYPT'S NEW HIGH DAM STRESSES INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS, UAR OFFICIAL SAYS

WASHINGTON, May 24 -- The Deputy Public Relations Director for the United Arab Republic's New High Dam at Aswan has called it a "vital project" aimed at uprooting centuries-old poverty in Egypt and creating a new middle class there.

Ahmed M. Talaat drew enthusiastic applause during his lecture at Middle East House here this week as he enumerated the benefits which could be expected to accrue to average Egyptians upon the completion of the new dam.

A two million acre increase in fertile land, and 10 billion annual kilowatts of electrical power are major benefits which can be expected to start a steady stream of other benefits to the people when the dam is operational, Mr. Talaat said.

Among other benefits, he said, would be new Nile river industries with expanded job opportunities for workers and new dollar-earning capacity for the nation through exportable industrial products.

Mr. Talaat said the new dam and others to follow it are geared to the prime goal of a better life for Egypt's people. This goal is based, he said, upon socialism which must not be confused with communism.

"I think the best distinction in this respect was made by President Nasser himself in a speech to the U.A.R. Parliament in 1961 when I had the honor to be a member of the Parliament," Mr. Talaat said.

He recalled that President Nasser said Arab Socialism rejected communism:

First "because we believe in God";

Second because "we believe in individual ownership";

Third because "we don't believe in a violent struggle between classes."

Mr. Talaat said emphasis on small private land ownership by many individuals is a key to Aswan High Dam construction. The Nubian resettlement project for that dam is an example of such emphasis, he added.

Mr. Talaat illustrated his lecture with a U.A.R. Information Ministry film on the four dramatic days in May, 1964, when the diversion channel for the new Aswan Dam was completed and became operational.

He also used numerous slides to illustrate the extreme care the United Arab Republic is taking with the support of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to save the priceless antiquities at Abu Simbel.

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Mr. Talaat's lecture, sponsored by the American Friends of the Middle East, climaxed his four months tour of the American dams and water projects to study their public relations techniques for possible use at Aswan.

He plans to leave for Cairo on June 6.
