

water for over half the land to be irrigated. For example, gigantic twin water tunnels are being bored to transport water from the Ataturk Reservoir to the vicinity of the town of Sanliurfa, 33 miles away. From here, the water would irrigate as many as 1.2 million acres of land on the fertile plain of Harran, near Ceylanpinar.

This region is the northern-most part of what historically has been known as the famous "Fertile Crescent." With the provision of a reliable water supply, the area can provide three harvests a year because of the climate and soils.

The Ataturk Reservoir could hold as much as 50 billion cubic meters of water. Compare this to the average amount of 30 billion cubic meters carried by the Euphrates River into Syria in a whole year.

Turkey has planned to fill the reservoir only gradually, and then to regulate the flow taking into consideration the downstream users. Throughout the 1980s there have been talks between Turkey, Syria, and Iraq on cooperation over the Euphrates water. In 1975, Syria completed the large Al-Thawra Dam on the Euphrates, and Iraq accused Syria of withholding water. However, in April this year, Iraq and Syria signed a Euphrates-sharing agreement.

In January 1990, Turkish President Turgut Özal spoke at the initiation of the filling of the Ataturk Reservoir (which will take years), stressing that there would be no impoundment of the Euphrates waters at the expense of Syria and Iraq. "Let no one suspect our intentions. We have taken into account the needs and concerns of our neighbors. We will never use the control of water to coerce or threaten them."

Opposing this view, and the water development perspective, the World Bank withdrew its funding support for the GAP. However, Turkey proceeded without it.

Saving the heritage

Teams of archaeologists have been working since the 1970s to excavate, save, and reassemble significant artifacts of the previous settlements in this ancient region, in advance of the new lakes and water channels projected by the GAP plan. Down through the centuries, there have been successions of societies here, from Assyria through to Roman times, and medieval cities. Trade routes have criss-crossed the region, including the Silk Road to China. Many of the small villages occupy sites with 2,000 years worth of ruins and artifacts.

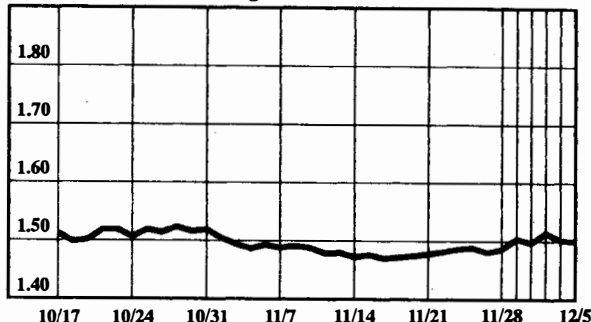
In the floodplain of the Ataturk Dam, teams began their salvage work in 1978. Even the residents of the modern village of Samsat were resettled into Yeni (New) Samsat, at a site which will be on the shoreline of the new Ataturk Reservoir.

The Turkish Ministry of Culture has salvage sites at 60 locations in Anatolia and, until the Bush war drive, had been seeking foreign assistance to keep pace with the construction of the dams. Now, all is in abeyance.

Currency Rates

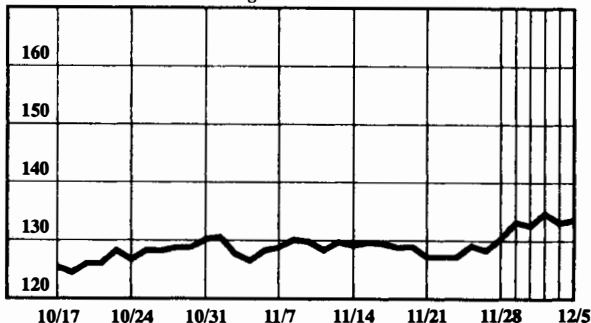
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



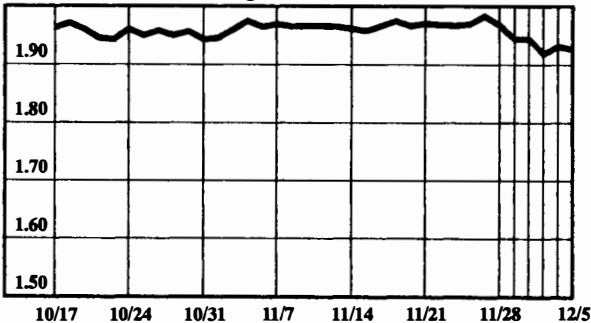
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

