

NEW OIL ROUTE FROM IRAQ

Not far from the great Sun Temple of Palmyra - the city that stood at the crossing of the ancient desert trade routes - a new route comes to life as a huge oil pipe-line is completed. Five hundred miles away the last 93-foot lengths of 32-inch piping link up with the huge Iraq Petroleum oilfield at Kirkuk. British and American contractors have laid 160,000 tons of piping from Kirkuk - top right of the map - 556 miles across the desert to Banias on the Mediterranean.

The locals are fascinated by the mechanical welder - you'll see the small flame travelling around the join at the turn of a handle.

In full operation, the pipe will carry 14-million tons of oil a year to huge storage tanks at Banias in Syria. From the tanks a pipe leads out to sea to load direct into the tankers. Already British ships are carrying the vital oil into the great refinery at Fawley, near Southampton, only two years after the great plan began to take shape.