

IRAQ PETROLEUM COMPANY, LTD.

LONDON AND IRAQ

TELEGRAMS:
INLAND: PETIRAQ, TELEX, LONDON
FOREIGN: PETIRAQ, LONDON

214, OXFORD STREET,
LONDON, W.1

SMcG/JP

3rd March, 1952.

WITH COMPLIMENTS - FOR FAVOUR OF INSERTION NOT BEFORE THE MORNING OF TO-MORROW
(TUESDAY, 4th MARCH)

IRAQ OIL AT THE MEDITERRANEAN (14 MILLION TONS A YEAR TO FLOW ALONG NEW PIPELINE)

Planned five years ago but due to world shortages of steel and equipment which made it impossible to start construction before September 1950, the Iraq Petroleum Company's 560 mile 30-inch pipe-line from Kirkuk, North Iraq, to Banias on the Mediterranean sea-board in Syria, will be ready for commissioning in April this year; almost exactly 18 months from Construction Day and six months before the date scheduled for completion.

Some 500 miles separate the Mediterranean sea-board and the rich oil field at Kirkuk in northern Iraq.

The only practical way of conveying the oil produced in Kirkuk to sea-going tankers on the Mediterranean is by a system of pipe lines. One such system, 532 miles long and consisting of a double line of 12-inch and 16-inch pipe connects Kirkuk with the terminal at Tripoli, Lebanon.

The new pipe-line, 30 inches in diameter, and the largest connecting Iraq oil, will convey, when completed, 14 million tons of crude oil a year from Kirkuk to Banias, a specially built terminal on the Mediterranean coast in Syria.

Thirty-five ships have been used to bring over 160,000 tons of 30-inch/32 inch pipe and 23,000 tons of 26-inch pipe from America. Some 50 million ton-miles of rail and motor transport were involved in distributing the pipe from the ports of Tripoli, Lebanon, and Basrah, on the Persian Gulf, to site for assembly.

By ordering equal quantities of 32-inch and 30-inch pipe for this project, freight space was halved by the simple method of nesting the 30-inch pipe inside the 32-inch pipe.

All the steel for the pipe came from U.S.A. but equipment and materials for the pumping stations along the route of the pipe-line have come from the United Kingdom.

(contd.)

In order to make earliest use of the new line it will be connected, on reaching K.3 Pump Station (near Haditha), to the 12-inch and 16-inch Kirkuk to Haifa pipe-line, which is out of commission, pending completion of the final 130 miles to Kirkuk.

Meanwhile, construction of this final stretch of the 30-inch line, from Kirkuk to K.3 Pump Station, will continue at its present accelerated rate in order to complete the entire 560 miles from Kirkuk to Banias by the end of April, 1952.

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26th March, 1952.

WITH COMPLIMENTS - FOR FAVOUR OF INSERTION IN YOUR NEXT ISSUE

IRAQ OIL REACHES NEW MEDITERRANEAN TERMINAL ALONG £43 MILLION PIPELINE

The Iraq Petroleum Company have pleasure in announcing that crude oil from their oil field at Kirkuk, North Iraq, has now reached Baniyas, in Syria, the specially constructed terminal on the Mediterranean of the 30-inch pipeline. In the past few weeks, a quarter of a million tons of crude oil were pumped into the 43 million pound sterling 30-inch line before it reached Baniyas, a distance of 556 miles from Kirkuk.

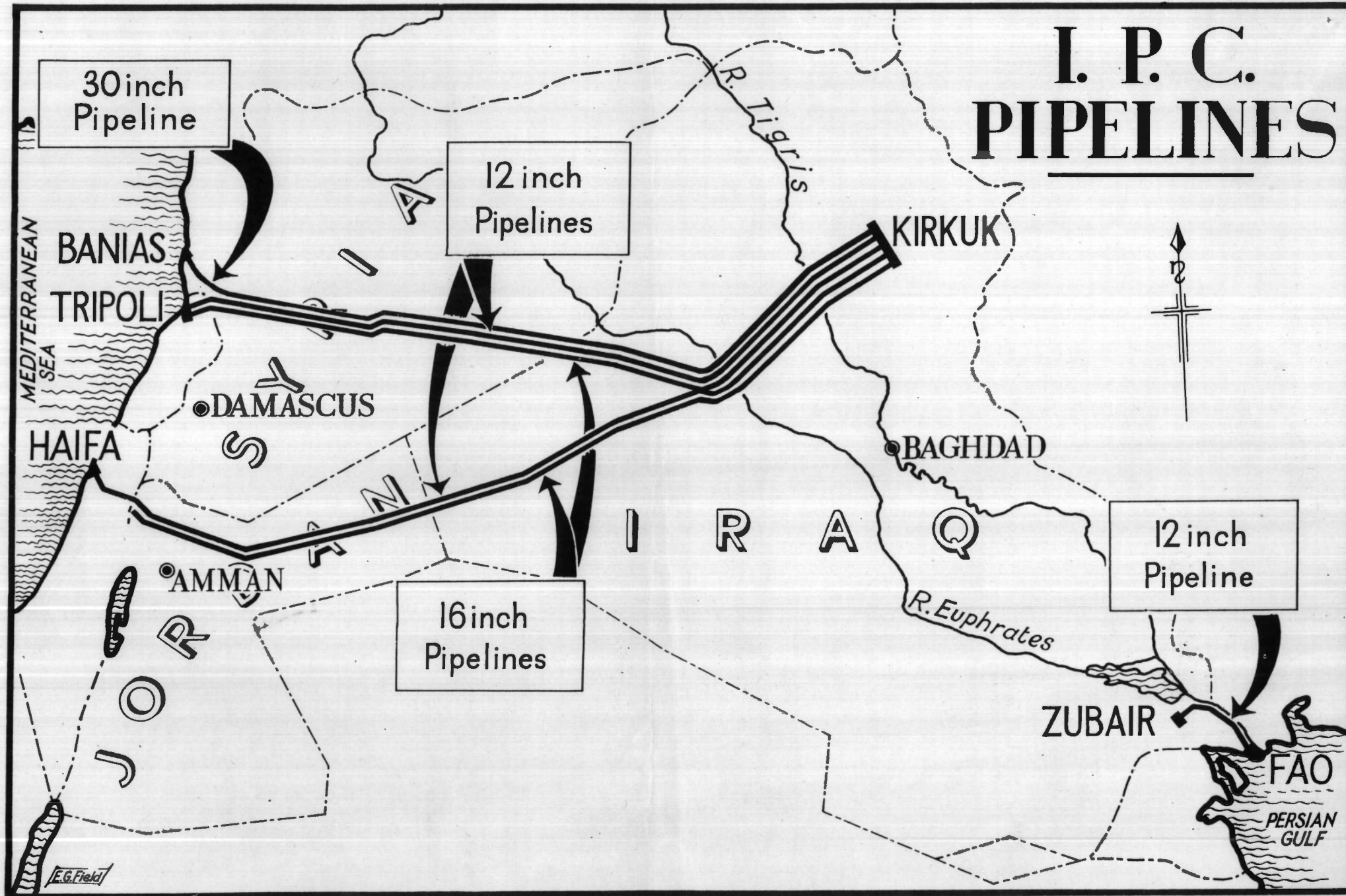
Although 115 miles of 30-inch pipeline still have to be laid before the new system reaches Kirkuk, it has been possible to bring it into operation by connecting existing 12-inch and 16-inch pipes of the southern fork of the pipeline terminating at Haifa which is at present inoperative. Meanwhile construction of the 30-inch pipeline continues, and will be completed to Kirkuk by the end of April.

First shipments of oil from Baniyas are scheduled to take place by mid April. In the meantime oil will be pumped into storage tanks (capacity 550,000 tons) which have been constructed at Baniyas.

The 30-inch pipeline, when in full operation, will convey an additional fourteen million tons of Kirkuk crude a year to the Mediterranean. It is estimated that during 1952 the total production from Kirkuk will exceed fourteen million tons. This is nearly double the 1951 production carried by the 12-inch and 16-inch pipelines to Tripoli, Lebanon.

The construction of the 30-inch pipeline from Baniyas, Syria, to the oil fields at Kirkuk began in November 1950, when the first sections of 160,000 tons of steel pipe were welded. Since then the accelerated construction programme pursued by the Company will have enabled them to complete the project six months ahead of the scheduled date.

I. P. C. PIPELINES



52-38.

E.G. Field