

**Middle East - Suez story No  
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Dag Hammarskjöld's samt.

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STATE OF CONSTRUCTION OF BANAT YACOUV CANAL

On 24 February Chairman of ISMAC reported that as result of a survey of work on the Canal outside the D/Z <sup>he</sup> ~~they~~ found that of total length of 13 kms. excavation was completed on all but 500 metres, but grading and levelling remained to be done over a large proportion. Only about 1750 metres of actual canal had been dug and only 500 metres surfaced with concrete.

No work had been begun on the reservoir (needed to regulate flow) near Capernaum, or on the power plant.

It would seem that many months would be required to complete this work even with a larger working force than was seen by Chairman of ISMAC.

Chairman's observations confirm an article in the JERUSALEM POST of 23 February which also stated that financial and other planning difficulties were causing delays. It also corresponds with what I learned from an Israeli journalist and economist when I was here last September.

1 May 1956

J. Reedman.



1 May 1956

A number of foreign correspondents representing British and American journals and news services met Mr. George Ivan Smith in his hotel room last night. Mr. Malania and Mr. Reedman were also present. The correspondents stated that a very high official of the Israel Foreign Ministry had briefed them on the following points:-

1. That compliance by Israel of Article VII and Article VIII was dependent upon compliance by Egypt with the Security Council resolution on the Suez Canal. The correspondents had gained a clear impression that this was a matter under negotiation.
2. The full story of the agreement on Observer Posts in the Gaza area had been told them, including the time limit and <sup>ce</sup> ~~the~~ statement that the total number of UNMOs was to be increased by approximately twenty.