

become a substitute for efforts which might be expected of the Lebanese Government.

Mr. Stassen inquired particularly about the Litani Survey Project, and Mr. Herdman, Project Engineer, gave a more detailed report on the accomplishments of the Litani staff to date, and the possibilities indicated by the studies already completed. Mr. Stassen emphasized his own belief that providing additional irrigated land was the most important use of water and should take precedence over using water for producing electric power since the oil supplies of the region might be used for providing power at approximately the same cost in Lebanon. Mr. Herdman pointed out that the cost-benefit studies indicated a much higher return from hydro-electric power use than from irrigation, but that intangible benefits of settling families on irrigated land would have to receive heavy weight. He also described the technical difficulty involved in the Litani Project where most of the irrigable land is above the water-storage sites. The proposed irrigation system of the South Bekaa was discussed in some detail. Mr. Herdman also described the political difficulties associated with the Litani Survey due to the great fear on the part of the Lebanese that the project would in some way benefit Israel or be vulnerable to Israeli aggression.

At the request of Mr. Stassen, Dr. Cannon described the Agricultural Program in Lebanon, including the three experimental farms now being used by Point Four in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the research work on new types of seed. He also described the Livestock Breeding Program briefly. In the course of this discussion, the difficulties encountered in obtaining supplies and equipment from the states was mentioned, and Mr. Stassen showed particular interest in these delays in procurement.

Time did not permit any discussion of UN Technical Assistance activities or their relation to the bilateral program in Lebanon.

The meeting closed at approximately 10:20 a.m. as Mr. Stassen was scheduled to depart with Secretary Dulles for their next meeting.

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*The Ambassador in Iraq (Berry) to the Department of State*¹

TOP SECRET PRIORITY BAGHDAD, May 17, 1953—11 a. m.
1373. Section one of two. For the President from Secretary.

¹ Transmitted in two sections.