TAPLINE-Makkinje Collection, 1949-1998

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Descriptive Summary

Call No.: A: 300.1
Bibliographic record: b18934274
Record Creator: Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company; Mr. John J. Makkinje.
Collection Title: TAPLINE-Makkinje Collection
Collection Date: 1949-1998
Physical description: 5 boxes
Abstract: According to the BP Statistical Review of World Energy, June 2016, Arab countries own the most proven oil reserves in the world, and have a share of around 43% of the total world reserves. The discovery of oil in the Arab world in the early 20th century was pivotal to many of Arab countries’ socio-economic development, and to their new and enhanced international geo-political positioning.

Following the discovery of the oil reserves in the region, several efforts were spent figuring out cheap and efficient ways to transport oil from the Arab Gulf countries, to the international market which still then relied heavily on oil for most of its energy. In order to cut oil shipment costs from Saudi Arabia to Europe and the United States, the Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company was formed in 1945 through a joint venture between several American Oil Companies. TAPLINE was to construct the largest oil pipeline in the world at the time, linking Saudi Arabia and Lebanon through Jordan and Syria. Eighty percent of this huge project was entrusted to the Engineering Company Bechtel International Corporation. The project proved to be a massive challenge both logistically and technically (equipment, vehicles and supplies had to be transported to the Arabian Desert all the way from the United States, and workers had to deal with harsh climate conditions.)

The pipeline itself provided a perfect shortcut between the Middle East and Europe saving tank-ships a long haul route that spanned the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea through the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Oman, and the Red Sea before the tankships could finally head towards Europe. The pipeline had a huge effect on the economy of the region, in particular on the development of Lebanon, specifically Sidon.

Language(s): English

Administrative Information

Source: The collection was donated to the AUB Libraries in two installments: in March 2002, Dr. Børre Ludvigsen, Associate Professor at Østfold Regional College, Halden, Norway, donated documents related to the TAPLINE, which comprised mostly telexes and a few photos; the second and bigger installment was donated by Mrs. Aricia Anthony Makkinje, the daughter-in–law of Mr. John Makkinje in 2017. Mr. John Makkinje was an employee of the TAPLINE, ARAMCO, between 1953 and 1986. Initially hired as a Radio Technician, and then promoted to the role of Manager of Operations, he remained in this position until the closure of the Plant, in 1986.

Access Restriction: The Collection can be used within the premises of the Archives & Special Collections Department, Jafet Memorial Library, American University of Beirut.
Photocopying Restriction: No Photocopying restriction except for fragile material.

Preferred Citation: TAPLINE- Makkinje Collection, 1949-1986, A:1, Box no.-, File no.- , Library Archives, American University of Beirut.

Scope and Content

The Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company (TAPLINE) Collection includes correspondence, maps, photographs, faxes and receipts, reports and miscellaneous archival documents. It also contains publications and press clippings related to the TAPLINE’s installations and operations; maps and plans for the Tank Farm Area, Sidon Terminal; company stickers; photographs of workers, tankers, landscape, oil pipelines, ships and the seashore.

This collection is an important source for scholars interested in the socio-economic history of the region, in Middle Eastern foreign affairs with a specific focus on US-Middle Eastern relations, and in the role that oil played within the geo-political context of the Arab region and the rest of the world, especially during the cold war era.

Arrangement:

Series I: Administrative and Operational material, including: Faxes and receipts, correspondence, reports, activity logs, design data and manuals
Series II: Photographs: 58 black and white photos in different sizes 7 x10 cm; 12 x 18 cm (including photos of operations, workers, installations…)
Series III: Maps and Plans: 4 maps and 6 plans in different sizes e.g. 192 x85 cm; 74 x106 cm.
Series IV: Publications: Articles, Brochures, an incomplete run of Pipeline Periscope magazine and press clippings

Historical Background:

The Trans-Arabian Pipeline (TAPLINE) Company was founded in 1945 as a joint venture by the following companies: Standard Oil of New Jersey (Esso), Standard Oil of California (Chevron), The Texas Company (Texaco) and Socony-Vacuum Oil Company (Mobil). The Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company was a fully owned subsidiary of the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco).

The TAPLINE was intended to extend from the Abqaiq oil fields in Saudi Arabia to the port of Haifa, in Palestine, making it the longest oil pipeline in the world, at the time. Following the Nakba of 1948, the route of the TAPLINE was amended, to pass through Jordan, the Golan Heights in Syria, and to end at the Zahrani Terminal, South of Sidon, Lebanon, near the Zahrani River, rather than in Haifa, Palestine, as initially planned. Oil was filled in boat tanks at the Zahrani terminal, and tankers then sailed from the port of Sidon, shipping oil to European and American markets (mostly to the East Coast of the US) at low costs.

The installations of the TAPLINE extended over a length of 1,214 kilometers (754 mi). At its inauguration, the TAPLINE initially pumped 300,000 barrels per day (48,000 m3/d)
(bpd), which was then increased to a maximum capacity of 500,000 bbl/d (79,000 m3/d), with the addition of several more pumping stations. The pipes transported up to 30% of Aramco’s Saudi Arabian crude oil, during its peak operation.

Oil transportation through the TAPLINE to Lebanon and Syria was brought to a halt in 1976, upon the beginning of the Lebanese civil war. The line’s installations were handed over to the Lebanese government in 1983. The Zahrani station was then transformed into a modern electrical power station and a fuel oil importation terminal. Aramco eventually was decommissioned and completely shut-off the TAPLINE in 1983.

**Subject Headings:**

Arab countries -- Economic conditions  
Arab countries -- Foreign relations  
Arabian American Oil Company -- History -- Sources  
Economic development--Lebanon  
Middle East -- Foreign economic relations -- United States.  
Middle East – History – 20th Century  
Petroleum  
Petroleum industry and trade -- Arab countries  
Petroleum pipelines -- Design and construction  
Petroleum pipelines -- Middle East -- Maps.  
Petroleum products -- Arab countries  
Petroleum refineries -- Middle East -- Maps.  
Saudi Aramco -- Employees -- History -- Pictorial works  
Tankers  
Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company (TAPLINE)  
United States-- Foreign economic relations-- Middle East
Container list

Series I: Administrative and operational material (1948-1997)

Faxes and Receipts
Box1:
270 faxes/ receipts (Huston Incoming) Jan 4, 1983 - Dec 28, 1983

Box2:
244 faxes/receipts (Hague Outgoing) Jan 5, 1983 - Dec 30, 1983
159 faxes/ receipts (Outgoing General) Jan 11, 1983 - Dec 30, 1983
367 faxes/ receipts (Personnel Cable) Jan 5, 1983 - Dec 28, 1983

Correspondence (1949-1998)

Box3:

File1:
- **Letters on Pipelines**
  - Letter from Abd Allah al-Uhaydib to the Amir of the Northern frontiers area concerning the Pipeline explosion. May 7, 1986
  - Letter from A. Fayad to S. D. Young about “pipeline throughput.” September 28, 1986
  - Letter from A. Fayad to S. D. Young about “pipeline throughput” including a table of maximum line capacity with Rafha and Turaif. October 2, 1986
  - Letter from D. I. Al-Ruwailei to F.B. AL-Anizi concerning the “estimated costs of performing repairs to the pipeline at KM/169.300” (+ an attached document about the cost of P/L repair due to accident at KM/69.300. August 19, 1997.
  - Letter from D. I. AL-Ruwailei to A.A. AL-Dossary about the “outstanding Pipeline work for the year 1998.” December 6, 1997
  - Letter from D.I. AL-Ruwaili to F.B. AL-Anizi concerning “Pipeline test holes results.” June 20, 1998

- **Letters On Operations/Personnel**
  - Draft letter to the Secretary of the Navy from Rhea Putnam, February 18, 1949
  - تعميم // إعلان من شركة خط الأنابيب عبر البلاد العربية- الظهران-باسم رئيسها د. ر. فيت إلى جميع الموظفين العاملين في المملكة العربية السعودية "أن خط الأنابيب الممتد إلى لبنان سيقوم مفولا ما لم تحل مشكلة تحديد ودفع ثمن الزيت وتأثيره على وضعهم وعملهم بصفتهم من موظفي تابليين."
  - TAPLINE – Badanah (Correspondence related to TAPLINE-Badanah) (Arabic + English) April 14, 1975
Letter from A. A. Al-Dossary to all key personnel concerning “job reassignments.” (+ an attached organization chart of TAPLINE department - TAPLINE Operations Division) December 8, 1997

Letter from D.I. Al-Ruwaili to A. A. Al-Dossary about the “weekly preventive maintenance schedule of both the mechanic and electrician for U.C.P stations in Saudi Arabia.” (+ an attached copy of the weekly schedule) November 22, 1997

Letter from A. A. Al-Dossary to all “key personnel informing them that during his absence” D. I. Al-Ruwaili will be in charge of TAPLINE operations. November 26, 1997

Letter from D.I. Al-Ruwaili to F.B. Al-Anizi about the “attached report that gives a summary on the performance and operations of unattended cathodic protection (U.C.P) stations and rectifiers operations for March 1998.” June 6, 1998

Letters on TAPLINE History

Letter from Rhea to John about what to include in the TAPLINE History. April 24, 1998

Reports, activity logs, design data and manuals

Box3:

File 2:

- A list of locations of the Pump Stations and Main Line Valves.
- Authorization to proceed with pipeline reconditioning [initiated by D. I. Ruwaili; Contractor: Saad Abdulla Al-Sewilem Est] – Pipelines department. August 26, 1996
- اتفاقية بيع: من شركة الزيت العربي السعودية (أرامكو) لمؤسسة القمري التجارية. September 1997

File 3:

File 4:

File 5:

File 6:
- Appendix VII: Profile Hydraulic Gradient: ATS-8074F

File 7:
- TAPLINE Data Book. Table of Contents: 1) Physical Plant, 2) Investments and cost Data, 3) Operations and Operating Costs, 4) Economics
- TAPLINE Instruction Field Manual, February 1, 1969
- TAPLINE Special Instructions Manual for Calculation of Payout and Rate of Return, March 21, 1966
- Draft loose paper document titled: SAG Suppl. Fee

File 8:

File 9:
- Summary of notes to Mr. J. J. Maakinje compiled after the break and fire occurred at KM 435.430 and 435.635. March 3, 1985

(Reports cont’d)

Box 4:

File 1:

File 2:
- *First Stage Nozzle replacement of Turbine 97604 (24x8) at Shubah spare foundation*, April 14, 1968. This report covers teardown inspection and
reassembly of turbine 97604 for a new stainless steel first stage nozzle. [Report no.15] (Documents + photos)


**Box4:**

**File 3: Outreach**

  (Paper presented at the Second Arab petroleum Congress organized by the Secretariat general of the league of Arab states,
  October, 1960) (English + Arabic)

**Series II: Photographs**

**Box4:**

**File 4:**

58 Black and White Photographs by Sarrafian, Beirut and by William Walden (1949) in different Sizes 7 x 10 cm; 12 x 18 cm. These photos document the Sidon terminal under construction and in operation.

**Series III: Maps and Plans**

**Box4:**

**File 5:**

- Geographic Map of the Wadi As Sirhan Quadrangle Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by Richard A. Bramkamp, Glen F. Brown, Donald A. Holm, and Newton M. Layne Jr. published by the U.S. Geological Survey Washington D.C. 1962 [Miscellaneous Geologic Investigations MAP 1-200 B]; size 103 x 110; scale 1:500,000
- Israel Map of the Cease-Fire Lines (2 Maps – Israel North and South) + List of Settlements, Localities and Antiquity Sites- Supplement to Israel 1:250,000. November 1964; size of both maps 98 x 68; scale of both maps 1:250,000

**File 6:** Several TAPLINE plans and plots

- TS-690: Profile & Hydraulic Gradient – Main Line, June 15, 1948
- TS-702: Pipeline Route, Station Locations and Water Wells, January, 1949

**File 7:** (Oversize, Both items are placed in the Oversize Archives drawer 11)
One plan and one map

- Plan: Key Plot Plan Tank Farm Area, Sidon Terminal, size 74 x 106 cm; scale 1’:200”; May 5, 1951; Engineering Department
- Map: Hydrographic Map of Shore Area, Sidon Terminal, size 192 x 85 cm; scale 1:4000; December 21, 1960; Engineering Department.

**File 8:** TAPLINE Stickers – Arabic

**Series IV: Publications: Articles, Brochures, Pipeline Periscope, press clippings**

**Box5:**

**File 1: Articles and Charts (1948-2003):**

- Brochure: Operation TAPLINE. Arabian American Oil Company- Public Relations Department. New York (No date)
- The Building of TAPLINE. Arabian American Oil Company- Public Relations Department. New York (No date)
- Chandler, W.R., *First Section of Trans-Arabian Line, Now in Use, Has Unusual Features*, The Oil and Gas Journal, August 19, 1948, pp. 66-68
- Putnam, R. H., *Selection of Control Valves for Large Capacity Liquid Pipe Lines*, World Oil, 1951,
- Brickhouse Jr., Captain A. A., *TAPLINE’s Sidon Terminal*. Captain A. A. Brickhouse, reprinted from World Petroleum, June, 1957 pp. 1-5
- TAPLINE: *An Unnecessary Problem*, Le Matin An-Nahar Arab Report vol. 6, no. 6, April 21, 1975, pp.2-3
- Wier, Anthony, *A New Partnership: American Foreign Policy, the Oil Companies, and Middle Eastern Oil*, 1941-1950, December, 1995
- Halliburton Pioneers Revolutionary Drilling and Intervention System; Real Time Solutions a Reality With Anaconda(TM) Technology. Halliburton Company - Press release, May, 2000 (3 copies)
• Vialls, Joe, *The War on Terror "Home Run"*: Electronically Hijacking the World Trade Center Attack Aircraft, October, 2001
• Vialls, Joe, Israel Plans Blitzkrieg to Capture Arab Oil Fields: Operation Shekhninah, Part One, January 30, 2002 (2 copies)
• The Modern Worlds of Business and Industry: Cultures, Technologies, Labor, Ed. Karen R. Merrill

**File 2: Press Clippings (1970-1998):**

• Samara, Maha, *According to Saudi and TAPLINE sources, however, there is no immediate cause for concern*, p.9 (Unknown source and date)
• TAPLINE repair was swift operation, Oil and Gas International, May 3, 1970
• Trans-Arab Oil Pipeline to close, International Herald Tribune, April 11, 1975, p.7
• Nuwayri, Jumana, *TAPLINE Countdown: TAPLINE has given its final word on the subject: the company will start closing down its operation next Saturday, May 10, unless...* Monday Morning, May 5, 1975, pp.10-12
• The analysts are skeptical: Saudi Arabia: $ 31.5 B. to spend in 1977-78, IKE. Vol. XXV No. 6964, Published by Monday Morning Group, July 1, 1977, p.13
• New LPG loading facility goes into operation at Qatif, The Arabian Sun. Vol. XXXXI. No.46, Published by Aramco, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. December 4, 1985, pp.1,8
• Gas Field discovered. The Arabian Sun. Vol. XLVI, No.25, Published by Aramco, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, June 13, 1990, pp.1,8
• Engineers, Lab Scientists attend orientation workshop, The Arabian sun. Vol. XLVI, No.23, Published by Aramco, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, June 20, 1990, pp.1,8
• Hisham Nazer Tours Aramco, talks to employees, The Arabian sun. Vol. XLVI, No. 33, Published by Aramco, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, September 5, 1990, pp.1,4
• Turbulent Years: some important dates in Israel’s History, April 30, 1998, p.25 (Source unknown)
• Sign for Aramco Zoo - Dhahran Wild Animal Park.

(An incomplete run of the Pipeline Periscope v. 7-25, 1958-1975)

- Vol. 7 no. 10 1959
- Vol. 8 no. 12 1960
- Vol. 9 no. 1 February 1961
- Vol. 13 no. 11 December 1964
- Vol. 14 no. 6 July 1965
- Vol. 14 no. 7-8 August-September 1965
- Vol. 18 no. 6 December 1967
- Vol. 18 no. 7 1967
- Vol. 18 no. 2 April 1968
- Vol. 19 no. 2 April 1969
- Vol. 20 no. 1 March 1970
- Vol. 20 no. 2 May 1970
- Vol. 22 no. 4 June 1972
- Vol. 22 no. 7 December 1972
- Vol. 23 no.1 January 1973
- Vol. 23 no. 2 March 1973
- Vol. 24 no.1 February 1974
- Vol. 24 no.7 November 1974
- Vol. 25 no.1 March 1975

- See also at Al Mashriq: TAPLINE's magazine, the "Pipeline Periscope" 1953-1974
  

Related Material

Digital Material

- A selection of photos and maps are posted on “Al-Mashriq” s website.
  http://almashriq.hiof.no/lebanon/300/380/388/tapline/
- Zahrani Oil Installations (ZOIL): http://www.leboilinst.com/page.php?CID=WmFocmFuaSBPaWwgSW5zdGFsbGFOaW9ucyAoWk9JTCk6&id=Mw==&lan=En

Theses

- Shine, John W., Aramco and TAPLINE in international oil, (B.S. Thesis), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dept. of Economics and Engineering, 1953.
  http://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/68286
http://hdl.handle.net/10938/3236

http://hdl.handle.net/10938/4270

http://hdl.handle.net/10938/6600

http://hdl.handle.net/10938/4727.

Sinno, Ahmad Akram, *Feasibility study for a new oil refinery in Lebanon*, (M.B.A. Project), American University of Beirut. Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Graduate School of Business and Management, 2012.  
http://hdl.handle.net/10938/9433.

**Publications**

**Books**

Articles

- **An Enemy Below**, Da Cruz, D., JA 65: 12-13  
  http://archive.aramcoworld.com/issue/196802/the.great.badanah.flood.htm
- **The Long Steel Shortcut**, Da Cruz, D., SO 64: 16-25  
  http://archive.aramcoworld.com/issue/196405/the.long.steelshortcut.htm
- "**Milk Run**, Oct 61: 12-15  
  http://archive.aramcoworld.com/issue/196605/terminal.htm

Photographs

- Engineering students on a trip to Trans-Arabian pipeline terminal in Sidon, 1953  
  Ph:AUB:1953/01/09(16):01:45
- First Oil Exhibition 1960  
  Ph:AUB:1960/01/11:1-4:49
- American Economists visit to AUB 1975  

Maps

- The Middle East 1971, MP 912.56:MID:1971:c.1
- Middle East area oilfields and facilities / United States. Central Intelligence Agency  
  MP 912.56:MID:1980a:c.1

Videos

- قصة خط التابلاين تحكي تاريخ منطقة الحدود الشمالية للسعودية  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hz91OLMTNGg