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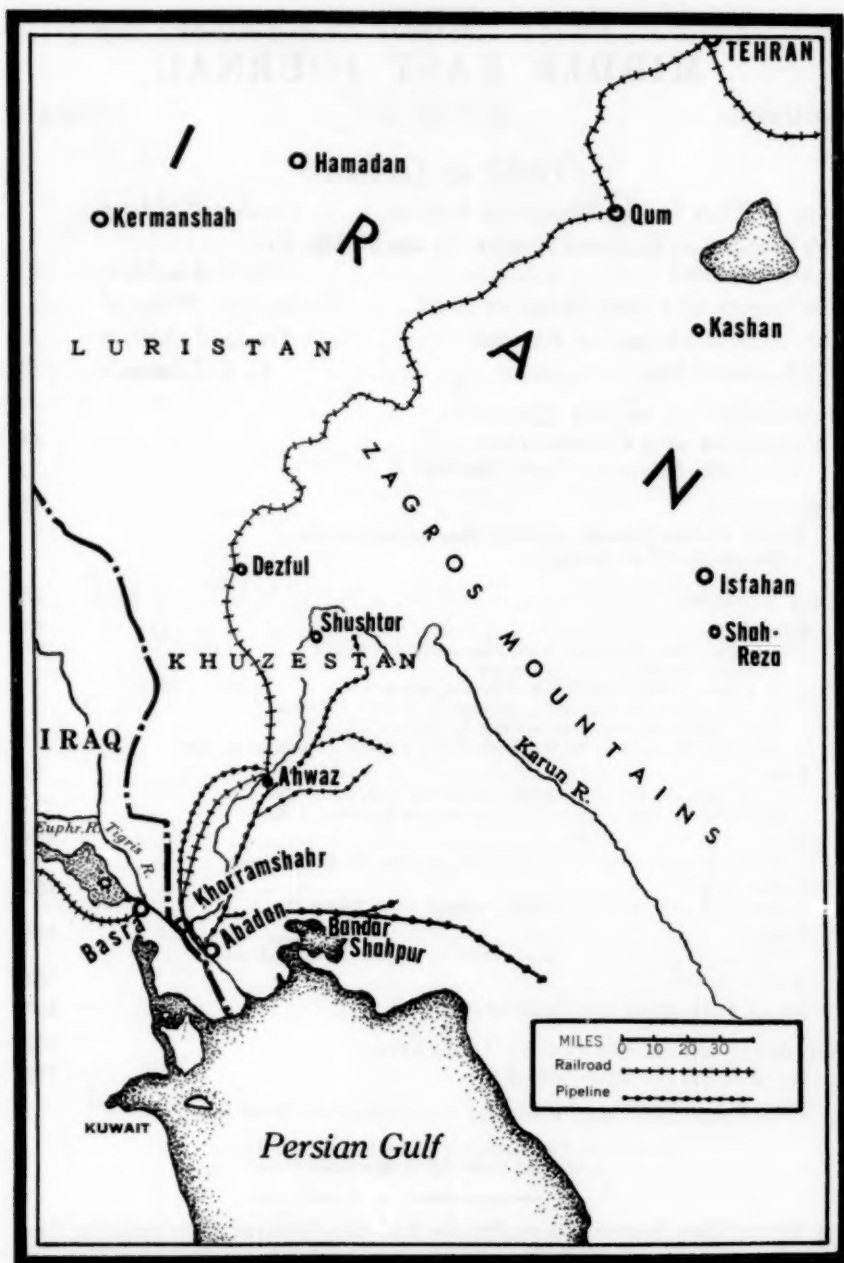
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SOUTHWESTERN IRAN, INCLUDING KHUZESTAN

(See opposite page)

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IRAN: A TVA FOR THE KHUZESTAN REGION

Gordon R. Clapp

THE TVA IDEA AND IRAN

A NEW approach to the challenging problems of economic development is taking shape in the Khuzestan region of southwestern Iran, where five rivers flow in the broad plain north of the Persian Gulf and the vast oil fields feed the gigantic refinery at Abadan. For this region, Iran has asked a new kind of American company to take responsibility for a program of unified development of water and land resources.

National planning is not new in Iran. Her government is now embarked on the second Seven Year Plan, calling for a long list of projects—new highways, dams, irrigation facilities, airports, schools, hospitals and industries. But building a program of economic development on the inter-related natural resources of one of its great regions is a new approach in Iran. Indeed, it had not been done anywhere until the Tennessee Valley Authority was launched in the 1930's to try the idea in a sorely depressed area of the southeastern United States.

It does not seem strange to anyone familiar with the world-wide interest in the TVA that Iran should covet the TVA concept for the region of her greatest river valleys. The success of the TVA has brought

◆ GORDON R. CLAPP, who was chairman of the board of directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority from 1946 to 1954, headed the United Nations Economic Survey Mission for the Middle East in 1949. In 1955 he and David E. Lilienthal, also a former TVA chairman and former Atomic Energy Commission chairman, formed Development and Resources Corporation to provide planning and administrative services to foreign countries in resource development work. Following a visit to Iran in February 1956 their company agreed to work for the Iranian Plan Organization in developing the Khuzestan region. The two former TVA chairmen recently returned from a second trip to Iran.