

# BODY

Satellite observation of the war between Iran and Iraq, produced by Ocean Earth for mass media since 1984, and based on data extending back to 1972, led to discovery of one of the most ambitious construction projects of our time.

The project: diversion of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers away from each other nearly 100 miles upstream from where they merge into the Shatt-al-Arab, at what scholars regard as the site of the Garden of Eden. This twin diversion spreads apart, approaches convergence, and spreads apart again, over a nearly 250 mile distance, in what appears from space as the form of a human body.

The form has reason. As in the human body so in the Tigris-Euphrates valley, liquids under force of gravity press through absorbent material (soil). As in the human body so in the valley, a pelvic barrier blocks passage through, forcing a convergence above and emergence below. In recent history, the blockage has forced waters to back up, bog down and largely evaporate. Invigoration of the region, and of the Gulf downstream, has required far greater flow from upstream through to downstream. Invigoration has required new channels of flow, far apart, each bearing down the liquid weight from upstream efficiently, in accordance with fluid dynamics. The ensuing form, built by military and civil engineers during the past decade, resembles another efficiently shaped liquid body subject to gravity—ours.

Nearly all the construction is Iraqi. Noting its steady progress, Ocean Earth has reported since early 1985 that Iraq appears to maintain the initiative in the war with Iran. This has long been forbidden knowledge; usually the public has been told that Iran would likely prevail. But in recent weeks, in phase with increasing public release of satellite imagery of the war zone, the full scope of the vast military and civil engineering comes to light. The authorities will soon seek to persuade the public that the engineering project here displayed should be completed. The chief block to completion, now, is from the Iranians, and the primary point of blockage, shown in the close-up photographs here, is at the juncture of the mile-wide, multichannel canal and Iran's main river, 20 miles inside Iran.

The Ocean Earth Construction and Development Corporation, after consulting with diplomatic officials from Iran, Iraq and the U.N., sets forth a scenario for completion of the final link in the twin-river construction project started over ten years ago. The scenario, although derived from what is said to be Soviet engineering, manifests and continues land-engineering designs for this and similar regions exhibited in the 1960s and '70s by American artists.

The titles and construction plans for the photographs are derived directly from one artist, Dennis Oppenheim, who first built similar structures before the war.