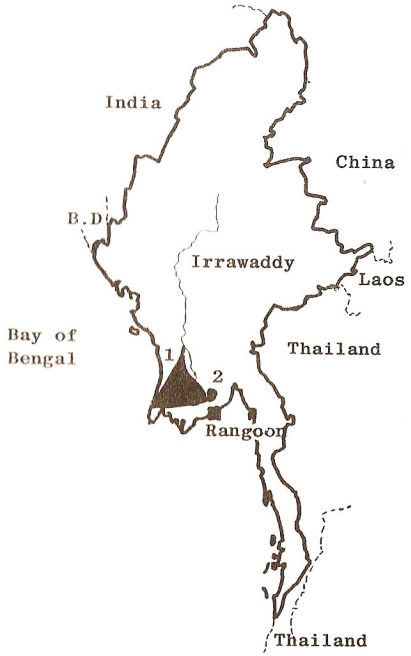
Burma



1. Irrawaddy Delta

The Irrawaddy delta is in an early stage of hydraulic and agricultural development. The climate is humid tropical and the soils in the area can be considered as among the richest of the country ("Rice bowl" of Burma).
The delta covers an area of about 35,000 sq.km. It is a flat and fertile alluvial plain, interwoven with rivers and creeks.

Development

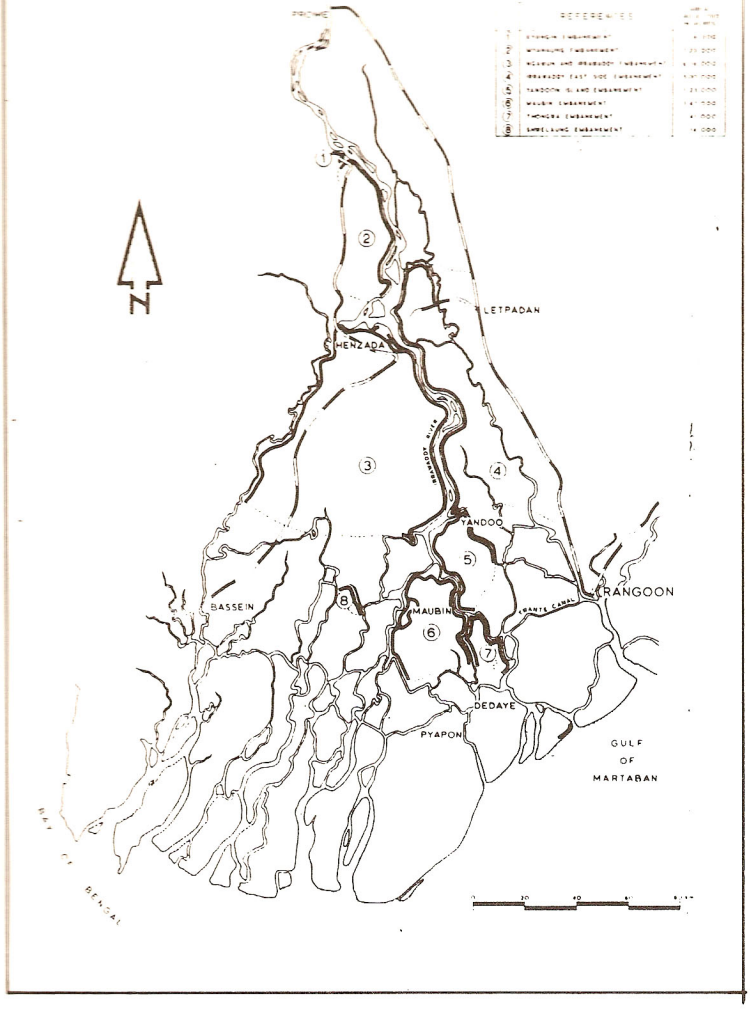
Until 1850 much of the delta land was uncultivated. Following the rush of settlers from Upper to Lower Burma, the construction of embankments to protect areas from being flooded kept pace with the increase of population. A large area has been embanked in course

of time now totaling 626,520 ha, with some 1,000 km of major dikes.
The system of embankments provides an unique example of partial flood protection. The major dikes form a horseshoe around the areas between the river distributaries, leaving the downstream ends open. In this way, protection of the higher part of the interdistributary areas is obtained, and the lands can drain freely in a downstream direction.
In the event of extreme floods, the lower parts act as a flood basin, thus slightly reducing the flood peaks.
In the coastal zone a modest start has been made to built sea-dikes to protect the lands from being flooded with saline water.
In the area where the river stages solely depend on the upstream floods, embankments have proved to be succesful in checking the floods. There is, however, still damage to the crops because of inadequate facilities to drain off local rainfall.
About 70% of the total cultivated area is devoted to vice. The yield in the delta amounts to some 2,000-2,500 kg per ha.

2. Rangoon Reclamation Scheme

The project involves the reclamation of some 6,000 ha near the City of Rangoon, necessary for city extension and industrial development. The areas concerned are situated along the banks of tidal rivers surrounding the city.

The areas could be reclaimed by the Dutch method empoldering.
The area is enclosed by an embankment and an internal system of drainage canals, with ample storage capacity, discharges the excess water through automatic sluices or pumping stations.
The costs of empoldering turned out to be considerably less than the costs of raising by landfill. The work was only partly completed because the industrial development of the Union of Burma had to be slowed down after the fall of rice prices on the world market, income from rice sales being intended to finance part of this development.


PROME
LETPADAN
HENZADA
YANDOO
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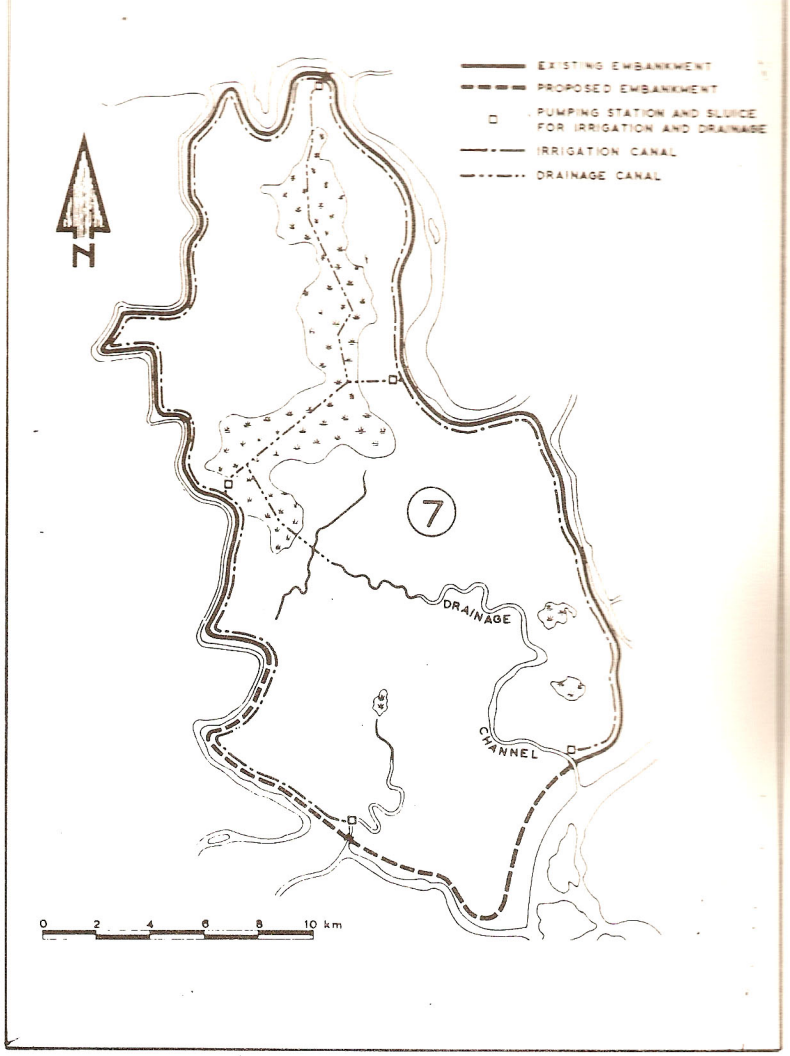
EXISTING EMBANKMENT
PROPOSED EMBANKMENT
PUMPING STATION AND SLUICE FOR IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE
IRRIGATION CANAL
DRAINAGE CANAL
N
7
DRAINAGE
CHANNEL
0 2 4 6 8 10 km