

**EGRAM FROM BEIJING, 03.06.2003**

some cracks and these were not serious enough to af



China's first large-scale dam projects early in his career. Several massive projects have been approved more recently including the South North Water Transfer scheme (three long canals to pump water from the Yangste into and across the Yellow River to meet demand in northern China) and a cascade of eight hydroelectric dams on the Mekong River, whose potential impacts are a source of concern to downstream states. These projects are backed by large amounts of central government finance and are part of the overall package of fiscal measures to stimulate the economy, particularly in western China.

12. Although a handful of experts and academics voice specific criticisms of each project, there is a strong presumption in