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I- INTRODUCTION

The Sinai peninsula covers about 6.1 % of the total area of Egypt. It is triangular in shape and is bounded on the east by the Gulf of Aquaba and the Palestine boundary and on the west by the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Suez. The peninsula is connected with the Asiatic continent for a distance of over 200 km between Rafah on the Mediterranean Sea and the head of the Gulf of Aquaba. The southern end is occupied by a complex of high and very rigid igneous and metamorphic mountains. The northern two thirds are occupied by a great northward draining limestone plateau which rises from the Mediterranean Coast and extends southward .

After the victory of October 1973 , the Government of Egypt started to give more attention to the Sinai peninsula.

Nowadays, it was assured that the Sinai peninsula must be developed in various disciplines. The first step for development is to determine the capabilities of land utilization.

The development in aerial photography techniques and the use of photographic equipment from remote

distance caused progress in the environmental and geological studies.

The aim of the current study is to use aerial photographs for studying and soil classification of an area in El- Qaa plain in the south-west part of the Sinai peninsula.