

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Visit of AKFC Awareness Group

November 5, 1985

The AKFC Awareness Group with their team leader Mr. Zulfikar Lalji (ZL) and escorted by Zahir Meghji and Nizar Mecklai arrived in AKRSP office at 1030 hours. The members of the MG introduced themselves individually. Then ZL introduced his team members one by one. Valley in Transition was shown to the group followed by detailed briefing by the GM. During briefing session the guests were entertained with tea and cookies as well. GM and the MG replied to various questions asked by the visitors. At 1230 hours the group accompanied by GM, HWK and ZA left for Hanuchal. On the way they were served with packed lunch and soft drinks. They also photographed the majestic snow-capped peaks of Nanga Parbat.

The group at Hanuchal was received by SH (SO Gilgit), EK and members of the VO at about 1415 hours. All the members including ladies led by SSK bravely climbed up to the water channel and also went up to the source of the water. They also witnessed the work in progress on the channel. Some group members talked to the VO members individually and praised their efforts and hard work being put in for the construction of the channel. The group departed Hanuchal at 1530 hours and arrived at Yarkut at 1715 hours and visited the water storage reservoir and then the guests departed for Gilgit Jamat Khana to say their prayers. SSK, HWK and ZA returned to the office.

November 6, 1985

The group accompanied by ZA and MD boarded the coasters for Passu at 0815 hours at Serena Lodge. On their way they witnessed the Rahimabad Link Road. Group members travelling in one coaster stopped at village Shishkat to see the DJ School constructed on self-help basis and then arrived at Passu project site and saw the completed irrigation channel. Then they stopped at the new land that came under irrigation after completion of the channel and got down the coasters. It was a beautiful sunny day and were served with packed lunch and soft drinks. ZA explained as how this new land is going to be developed collectively by the VO members. The group also saw the forest nursery being developed. ZL praised their efforts and said it is difficult to visualise from reports the efforts by VOs are being put in for development and remarked "Seeing is believing".

The visitors then arrived at Passu village where village men and women had gathered in the school. ZL introduced members of his group one by one. ZL in his speech said that they all have come from as far as Canada to see the development work being done by AKRSP and the villagers of Northern Areas. He further said that they all are very impressed with the remarkable work being carried out. ZL promised that he himself and the members of this group on return to Canada would put more efforts to generate more funds for further development of Northern Areas.

The President of the VO Mr. Ahmed Karim welcomed the guests and thanked them for visiting Passu. Then the visitors individually talked freely to VO members. The group was entertained by delicious Passu apples by VO members. Before boarding the coaster, they visited a nearby house and went inside it. They were much impressed with the simplicity and cleanliness of the house.

The group left for Aliabad Hunza at 1400 hours and arrived Aliabad at 1500 hours. The group was then taken to the Jamat Khana where women and men of Central Hunza VOs had gathered. ZL introduced the group members and said that they all are very pleased to be in Hunza. They intermingled with people and chatted with them freely. The group also visited the nearby Aga Khan Health Service Centre. Before boarding the coasters, all the members expressed their extreme satisfaction for the day's visit and talking to men and women. The group returned to Gilgit at 1815 hours to attend the dinner hosted by the AKRSP at Serena Lodge.