

July 11, 1985

**NOTE FOR THE RECORD**

**Subject: Visit to Islamabad**

**July 11, 1985**

Left Gilgit at 0730 hours by helicopter along with Ms Katherine Pfitzer, Jean Luc Ray and Diane Gold and due bad weather reached Peshawar airport around 1030 hours after making a detour via Tarbela. Katherine and Ray were joined by the Minister for Health of the Government of NWFP and other officials of the Central Health Board (CHB) for onward journey to Chitral, while Diane and SSK proceeded to Islamabad by road which they reached by 1300 hours.

July 12, 1985

Friday

July 13, 1985

All the government offices being closed, SSK could only meet Mian Riazuddin at his residence who showed SSK Chairman, AKRSP BOD letter informing him reconstruction of the Board of Directors and inclusion of Mr. Ejaz A. Naik, Dr. Manji and Shafi in the Board in place of Mian riazuddin, Iqbal Dossani and Hamidullah Baig.

On the question of the VOs becoming members of the Gilgit Cooperative Bank, Mian Riazuddin agreed that the proposal was not feasible from the point of view of making VOs viable and getting control of the Bank. Firstly because the bank was currently controlled by non-agricultural sector and overwhelmingly by traders and secondly it would not be prudent to plough in VOs equity capital in the bank. He endorsed Malik Manzur's recommendations of setting up a financial corporation and suggested constituting a Managing Committee of professionals to run the day to day affairs of the bank with the General Body meeting frequently. He advised inclusion of the members of the MG in the Committee.

Mian Sahib suggested establishment of a continuing consultancy relationship between AKRSP and the National Cooperative Union. SSK drew his attention to the letter in which the views of the PPM were communicated to him preferring consultancy on task basis instead of a continuing one. In this regard SSK pointed out the immediate requirement of setting up the financial corporation and requested Mian Sahib to detail someone from the Union to spell out the task involved and the consultancy fees acceptable to the Union for doing the jobs envisaged. In view of Malik Manzur's sudden and unfortunate demise, Mian Sahib agreed to send another person well versed in cooperative rules and regulations to advise AKRSP.

Mian Sahib also offered the services of the marketing federation operating in Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar to help AKRSP's marketing operations. IHM has already been in contact with Mian Sahib and is seized with the matter.

July 14, 1985

The day began with a meeting with Mr. Hennis of the Netherlands Embassy who had already received an advance copy of the Plan of Operations pertaining to the Dutch assistance in Baltistan prepared by AKd. Mr. Hennis briefed SSK on Ms Turksma's reactions of her visit to AKRSP which was generally positive. However, the Plan of Operations prepared by Ms Turksma for the women's component of the Dutch assistance would require another 3-4 weeks for finalization. The Baltistan Plan of Operations has already been pouched to Holland and Mr. Mostert is expected to bring it back next week, when he returns from his leave, after transferring the information in the standard proforma. Funds should be available immediately after this has

been done.

Mr. Hennis spoke of the Dutch assistance in the field of livestock development at Harichand Farm in Peshawar district and suggested linkage between the artificial insemination programme being proposed by AKRSP for the Northern Areas with the Dutch consultants due to arrive in September. In this regard he mentioned the name of Dr. Feddema, Senior Consultant at Veterinary Research Institute, Peshawar and Dr. Dam stationed at Harichand for immediate contact. ZA and AB may like to make a contact with the Dutch Consultants in this behalf.

Since the Ambassador Mr. van Jean also wished to see SSK, a meeting took place with Ambassador immediately after discussion with Mr. Hennis. The Ambassador expressed great satisfaction and happiness at the outcome of the exercise set in motion by his first visit to AKRSP in 1984. He expressed appreciation at the way AKRSP was operating in comparison with some other projects such as the Baluchistan Integrated Rural Development etc.

The Ambassador requested for material on AKRSP to enable his staff to write brief articles on the Programme for the consumption of the Dutch public. He expressed the view that the approach and the organisational aspects of AKRSP were of international significance and worthy of dissemination at the international level. SSK promised to have a five-six page write-up on AKRSP sent to him as early as possible.

Since Mr. Galeday had left Islamabad on transfer and Mr. John Blackton of USAID was away on leave, SSK could only contact Mr. Roversi, Assistant Programme Officer of UNFDAC who agreed to meet SSK next week and discuss collaboration between UNFDAC and AKRSP for the proposed Dir district programme.

In the meeting with the Chief Executive of the Regional Development Finance Corporation (RDFC), Mr. Muzaffar Mahmood Qurashi promised to get the land development loan released as soon as possible, since all the formalities on behalf of the Aga Khan Foundation have now been complied with. The funds have to come from NDFC as RDFC is still in the process of acquiring its own funds.

July 15, 1985

As the helicopter had got stranded at Buni (Chitral) and was brought back by the engineers, who travelled 12 hours by AKRSP jeep to Chitral, only one the 14th evening, SSK's scheduled departure to Chitral was delayed by nearly 30 hours. With the murder of Extra Assistant Commissioner of Chitral a few days earlier, the AKRSP staff in Chitral was feeling very insecure and perturbed and SO Sartaj Khan had specially requested for SSK's visit to Chitral at the earliest. With this backdrop SSK had arranged with the IG Police who was SSP when SSK was DC Peshawar to visit Chitral and reassure the staff about their safety. The maintenance of the helicopter took longer than anticipated and it took off at 1400 hours and reached Chitral at 1600 hours after picking up the IG Police from Peshawar. Mr. M. Azfar, a former Secretary to Government of Pakistan and Under Secretary General of the United Nations also agreed on SSK's invitation to visit the programme area.

At Chitral the welcome to IGP was accorded with ceremonial pomp and Katherine and Jean Luc had whale of time taking photographs. The whole group was accommodated at the Governor's cottage, including a prospective candidate for women's programme field work Ms Samina Hyder of the Research and Development Unit of PIA.

The Chairman, District Council although in town, was conspicuous by his absence and SSK considered it prudent to seek him out and meet him. Shahzada Mohiuddin was staying at his hotel Trichmir View and made on secret of his disenchantment with the conduct and behaviour of the DC and put all the blame on Ehtesham Khan for the current state of affairs in Chitral. The DC on the other hand protested about his best behaviour towards the Chairman debunked any allegations of discourtesy and rudeness. The Commissioner had visited the district a week earlier and tried to defuse the situation and had succeeded in bring about some sort of a rapprochement between the two. Many motives were being attributed for the murder of EAC and the whole thing was bring turned in a local and non-local issue. The Chairman was very kind to SSK and promised to avert any adverse impact on the development programme of the district.

July 16, 1985

In a review of the working of the SOU Chitral, it transpired that the SO had been mostly busy in protocol work to the complete neglect of village touring and follow-up of the VOs. Sartaj Khan was clearly told by SSK to attend to protocol duties only if he happened to be at the headquarters. Under no circumstances, should he let his field work suffer. The monthly diary submitted by SK, bore ample testimony to lack of field work.

SSK accompanied with Darjat and other officials first visited Dagheri in Gabor valley and inspected the under construction irrigation channel. Although situated in an inaccessible and remote area, the workmanship was found to be of a good standard. Only a handful of people were working on the channel and because they were up on a ledge, the progress of the channel could not be discussed. Chairman Mohiuddin and the DC who had accompanied the group spoke of some assistance in material to enable the VO complete the channel. The SOU should visit the project to ascertain the constraints, if any, in completing the channel. It has now been under construction for over a year and need to be accelerated.

The helicopter next landed at Aghotti, where 80 households have saved Rs.6,000 and completed 9,200 feet of the 9,900 feet channel, but in actual fact they wanted to extend the channel by another 3,000 feet to bring their barren lands under irrigation. The existing portion had only provided increased water supply to the cultivated fields.

They expressed an interest in training and marketing. The SOU should visit this VO also to ascertain the interventions needed to make it viable.

The group next landed at Minawar and SSK accompanied with the Chairman and Mr. Azfar went by jeep to meet the members of the VO and saw the road under construction. Of the 15,130 feet, 10,000 feet had been completed on which work was begun in September 1984 and three installments amounting to Rs.77,419 have so far been expended. The Manager of the VO lost his hand in an explosives incident. In a discussion SSK exhorted the members to take full responsibility to maintain the road as no other was going to do this for them and in no time all the good work done by them and valuable sacrifices given would get waste. The members promised to maintain the road at all costs and also to participate fully in the total package of AKRSP.

On return to Gram Chashma, SSK was met by a few members of the Gujal VO which has 35 households and 40 members and has accumulated Rs.5,906 as savings. It has completed its 550 feet of protective bund at a total cost of Rs.70,568 between February 1984 and May 1985 and now plans to construct an irrigation channel and requested for another grant for the purpose. SSK explained the AKRSP policy in this regard and asked SOU to further elaborate the methodology on their visits to the VO. He suggested survey of the channel to enable the VO drawing its village plan. The VO members expressed keen interest in training and land development.

From Gram Chashma, the group flew to Kalash Valley after picking up Katherine and Jean Luc from Chitral and witnessed the Kalash dance at Bumburet. The Kalash Valley presents a sad spectacle - under nourished and poor - despite government's special efforts to improve. AKRSP's attempts at organising the Kalash have also met with little success. The Kalash at large are too indolent and meek to take any initiative and their leaders too selfish to allow participation of their people in the development effort.

From Bumburet the helicopter flew to Drosch where the Commandant Chitral Scouts Col. Murad Nayyar entertained the group to a sumptuous lunch. By now the winds developed into such gales that it left no alternative to us but the postpone the visit to Arkari and Susum valleys to another day.

At Chitral Shahzada Mohiuddin brought a few candidates for employment in AKRSP as SO and Sub-engineers. SSK took their applications and promised to consider them if found suitable.

July 17, 1985

Due to technical problem with the helicopter fuel pump, the projected visit to Arkari valley early in the morning had to be canceled and the arrival at Buni delayed to 1030 hours from where after picking up SO Miraj Khan., SSK headed towards VOs Buzand and Waich in the Torkho valley. Out of 950 feet protective bunds

constructed by Waich VO, 60 feet of 160 feet spur had been washed away by river action. The VO which has 45 members representing equal number of households has accumulated a savings of Rs.13,739 and commenced work on the protective bunds in September 1984 and completed in April 1985. The President and the Manager of the organisation undertook to get the damage repaired as soon as flood waters recede.

The sixty households of VO Buzand have 57 members and have accumulated a savings of Rs.19,366. Of the projected 1100 feet protective bunds, the VO has so far constructed two bunds of 50 feet each and done of 400 feet. Work commenced on the bunds in April 1985 and is expected to be completed by September 1985 according to the President Musa Khan and Manager Rehmat Karim. Buzand VO is not connected by road and is a two-day journey on foot from Buni. The iodinated oil distribution has been completed in these villages. The VOs also expressed willingness to participate in the other components of the AKRSP package.

At Buzand one of the members requested for monetary assistance to shift his endangered house by river action in place of the 50 feet bund which the VO was proposing to construct. The VO president informed SSK that the VO can only assist by constructing the bund and not by helping in building the house because the bund would also protect the agricultural lands belonging to others as well. This was a good example of the VO taking a decision instead of passing on the problems of AKRSP.

On return the helicopter landed at Hussainabad Janal Kuch irrigation channel site. The VO has 45 households and has accumulated a savings of Rs.51,000. The VO is undertaking construction of 12,100 feet of irrigation channel of which 60% has been completed. Due to the hot weather, we were told the members work only from 0400 hours to 1000 hours. The channel is likely to bring considerable barren lands under irrigation. It passes through difficult and sliding area and a number of concrete abutments are needed to protect the channel against slide damage. One of the persons who we met namely Nazar Khan informed that his savings amounted to Rs.1,100 and that the President Abul Khan and Manager Ali Sher Khan are doing their job very well.

While flying, the pipes for the Parawak channel, were seen lying on the road side.

At Kargin the group was greeted by the office bearers and members of the VO which was formed on 23.1.1984 and has since accumulated Rs.32,000 as its savings with 97 members. It had completed 600 feet of batten protective bunds last year and is now in the process of completing another 600 feet of wiremesh bunds. The 300 feet bund completed seemed to be holding on very well and had succeeded in deflecting the waters to the other side. They hope to complete the second 300 feet bund by August 1985. In the meeting with the members, Ziarat Khan, livestock specialist informed of his 22 days training at Gilgit and treatment of 85 big animals since his training and thus saving the village losses upto Rs.50,000 at a total cost of Rs.206 including remuneration. He castrated 80 animals charging Rs. 5 for the bigger one and Rs.2 for the smaller one. Similarly Mir Azam Khan the plant protection and production specialist informed of his services in the field of protection of apple, orchards and crops at a total cost of Rs.921.75. He also showed initiative in buying insecticides worth Rs.263 from the local Agriculture Department once the AKRSP stock was exhausted.

The VO also took fertilizer loan of Rs.17,700 which had been fully repaid. Kargin is indeed developing into a model village and SO should provide it all the encouragement and incentives in becoming so.

The helicopter returned to Gilgit at 1500 hours.