

April 30, 1984

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Visit to Islamabad Meeting with Mr. G.M. Khattak, Chairman, University Grants Commission

Mr. Khattak expressed great interest in the AKRSP and asked the GM about progress of the programme. The GM in a nutshell described the strategy and progress made so far and asked for Mr. Khattak's help in developing afforestation and tree plantation programme. Mr. Khattak agreed to pay a visit to Gilgit between May 6th and 9th and gratefully accepted GM's offer for the use of the helicopter on its scheduled flights between Islamabad and Gilgit and in the Northern Areas.

Meeting with Khawaja Masroor Hussain,
Director Intelligence Bureau.

As asked by the Karachi office, the GM requested DIB for security clearance of Mr. Stephen Bell which the Director was kind enough to accord immediately and also direct the concerned officer to ensure its communication to the relevant agencies that very day. In a discussion with the Director, the GM also explained the communal situation in the area as it impinged on the AKRSP. The Director promised to keep a watch and keep the concerned quarters apprised of the situation so that no adverse situation is created for the implementation of the programme.

Meeting with Mr. Muzaffar Mahmood Qureshi, Deputy Managing Director, National Development Finance Corporation and Dr. Abdul Rashid Shad, PARC. Ahsan Tayyab also joined the deliberations.

Both the gentlemen asked a number of questions concerning AKRSP and Dr. Shad expressed an interest in working with AKRSP provided that PARC allowed his deputation for a period of 2-3 years. Mr. M.M. Qureshi expressed an interest in visiting the area and both messrs Qureshi and Shad agreed to visit during May 6th and 9th.

On a query from PARC, it transpired that Dr. Amir Mohammad was out of the country otherwise them GM had planned to meet him to enquire about the prospects of Mr. Shad working on deputation with AKRSP.

Meeting with Dr. Tariq Siddiqui, Secretary O&M Division and Principal-designate, Pakistan Administrative Staff College, Lahore and Mr. Ijlal Haider Zaidi, Secretary Establishment Division.

Mr. Siddiqui made a copy of the Northern Areas Committee report available to GM being a restricted document, it is not meant for circulations as yet. However, GM was pleased to notice a chapter devoted to the activities of the Aga Khan Foundation and AKRSP.

The report commends AKRSP strategy for field work to government agencies and recommends a close liaison between the Planning and Development Department and AKRSP.

Meeting with Mr. Ziauddin Taimur, Additional Secretary Incharge, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Affairs Division.

Mr. Taimuri greatly commended the film "Valleys in Transition", which the GM had shown the Federal Committee and expressed the view that the film explained what thousand of worlds or documents would not have been able to do in the time available to the Committee. He gave the impression that the Committee was greatly impressed by the work being done by AKRSP and said that government agencies should benefit from this experience. He made enquiries about the work of LB&RD and asked questions for dovetailing LB&RD and AKRSP. He desired a meeting later, after the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee to explore avenues for a closer linkage between AKRSP and LB&RD. In regard to the extension of AKRSP activities to the districts of Diamer and Baltistan, the GM briefed the Additional Secretary about the recent

developments with communal overtones and the use of government funds to undertake schemes and projects by the villagers in these districts, in addition to the technical assistance which AKRSP was in position to provide. Additional Secretary considered this proposal worth pursuing and promised to discuss it in detail on his next visit to the Northern Areas.

Meeting with USAID officials.

Mr. Donor Lion, Director USAID, Mr. Stephen Sans, Economic Councillor, Mr. John Blackton, Director Programmes.

Mr. Lion informed the GM that he was impressed by the reports he has received from his own people and others about the progress made so far by the AKRSP and it was for this reason that USAID was prepared to have the special development programme executed through AKRSP. However, since funds of this programme, as requested by the government, are being channelled through the UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (UNFDAC), he had asked Mr. Gale Day to get in touch with AKRSP to decide on the modalities of this assistance. Since Mr. Gale Day had not contacted AKRSP so far and he was not also available in office that day, no further progress could be made in the matter.

Mr. Lion asked questions pertaining to commencement of work by AKRSP in Northern Dir along with Chitral, and on GM's indication of no prospect of this happening, he commended that this should not in any way hold up initiation of work in Chitral, because government in any case was asking funds for development of Chitral district and not so much for narcotics control. Mr. Sans expressed an interest in visiting Gilgit in June which the GM welcomed.

Meeting with Mr. Ejaz Naik, Secretary General, Economic Affairs Division, Islamabad.

Mr. Naik expressed regrets at his inability to see the GM on the 2nd because of the visit of the Japanese Prime Minister and enquired about the progress of the programme and agreed to visit the Northern Areas from June 18 to 22 as his projected visit in May appeared not to materialise due to other pre-occupations and visits abroad. On the question of USAID for Chitral programme, he expressed positive support on part of EAD for the proposal and promised to use his good offices in favour of AKRSP.

Meeting with Mr. Popkawasaki, First Secretary, Royal Netherlands Embassy.

Mr. Popkawasaki explained that after his visit with Bob and Hakim, he had sent all the material and also the film "Valleys in Transition" to Holland and requested for a grant of between 1 million to 2 million Guilders immediately for AKRSP. He expressed the view that the Dutch experience of aid to rural development in Pakistan has been a disappointment one, therefore, he was convinced that only through an NGO some progress could be made. He also expressed the view that he was convinced that rural development cannot be done through expatriate and has to be entrusted to national experts. He was planning to fund AKRSP from the Special Dutch Programme which was not part of the regular package of aid to Pakistan but was over and above the regular aid and did not entail government permission. In addition he also mentioned about the embassy funds for projects upto Rs.75,000 provided such projects are income generating for a group and have an economical base and could be implemented promptly. He requested for a portfolio of such projects which could be sanctioned by the Ambassador immediately.

Mr. Popkawasaki also offered to procure books from anywhere in the world upto dollars 2,000 for AKRSP library, if a list of such books could be provided.

Finally Mr. Popkawasaki enquired the possibility of the Ambassador visiting AKRSP in the Northern Areas. He was keen to get Ambassador's support for his plans to give assistance to AKRSP. The GM welcomed the visit and offered the facility of helicopter on its scheduled trip to Northern Areas from May 17th to 20th. Mr. Popkawasaki gratefully accepted the invitation and agreed to provide necessary details for getting security clearances to the Liaison office at Islamabad.