

July 25, 1989

**NOTE FOR THE RECORD**

**Subject: Visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan to Shandur.**

The Prime Minister's entourage arrived at the Shandur Top (12,250 feet) in a cavalcade of 5 Pumas and brought the Chief Minister NWFP, Governor NWFP, General Babar (Adviser to PM), General Imtiaz (Adviser on Defence), Hanif Khan (Federal Minister), Iqbal Ahmad (Adviser to PM), Jehangir Badr (Federal Minister), Mr. Kazmi (Federal Minister and Masud Kausar (Speaker NWFP Assembly) also. The Administrator, Northern Areas had travelled with me upto Barsat by helicopter and thereafter we travelled by jeep as Shandur is beyond Bell 412's ceiling.

Shandur looked like a battle ground from the medieval ages with tents and pavilions dotting whole scene and colourful pennants fluttering in the breeze. The polo ground presented a most magnificent setting overlooking the newly constructed pavilion with the lake in the background. The ground was resplendent with colour flags and the crowd had occupied vantage viewing positions on the hillocks surrounding the ground. The Gilgit polo team gave a superb account of itself and won the lively encounter by 9 goals to 5. The tournament was started in 1915. The Prime Minister announced that the polo match at Shandur would now be an annual affair and held on June 20.

During the match the Chief Minister NWFP introduced me to the Prime Minister who recalled the presentation I made on AKRSP and observed that the programme should be started in other areas of Pakistan, as soon as, technical staff could be trained. She further said that she understood that the Aga Khan Foundation was going to start the programme in Larkana. I informed her that as a sequel to her instructions, I was invited by the Chief Minister of Sind to make a presentation on AKRSP. The Sind Government has since informed us that they would be sending a team of officials for training to Gilgit. Mr. Sherpao commended the programme to Prime Minister and said that NWFP was planning to start it. The PM remarked that she agreed that it was a very good programme but "they" wanted People's Development Programme Funds to be diverted, which was not possible. However, if funds could be mobilised from other sources, the programme should be implemented. Having failed to comprehend who "they" were, I submitted to the PM that we did not make any such suggestion. I also exhorted Chief Minister NWFP to take an early decision on the registration of the Sarhad Rural Support Corporation (SRSC) as USAID has already provided some funds for the programme in the current financial year. Mr. Sherpao promised to do so and also mildly complained about non-availability of helicopter for his use.