

March 14, 1984

**NOTE FOR THE RECORD**

**Subject: FOLLOW-UP VISITS**

**Visit by: MG (SSK, HWK) accompanied with Mr. Robert Shaw (RS) and Hakim Feerasta (HF).**

The helicopter took off at 1030 hours from the Gilgit airport and made the first landing at Barkulti. There were about 200 members of the village organisations to greet the MG and other guests. Immediately after landing the MG along with RS and HF, were taken to the work site by the SOU Gupis-Yasin, M. Sartaj Khan (MSK), Mairaj Khan (MK) and Hazrat Amin (HA). Since Mg's last visit on 18.2.1984, considerable progress had been made on construction of the channel and the protective bund.

In the dialogue with the members of the VOs, the office bearers of Barkulti Paen informed that since the last visit of the MG, their membership has increased from 147 to 149 and their savings from Rs.16,200 to Rs.17,536. In case of Barkulti Bala, the membership has increased from 181 to 188 and the savings from Rs.5,750 to Rs.7,300. They had also collected 450 bags of cement and work on the reservoir had begun.

The office bearers of the VO Barkulti Par informed that their membership has increased from 96 to 97 and savings from Rs.6929 to Rs.8429. The dispute about project priority had also been resolved and work on protective bund would begin as soon as the Sub-engineer gives them the layout. On a query by the GM from Bulbul Nazir, Member of the Union Council who had in the last meeting contested giving of priority to protective bund, the MG was informed that the members of the VO had themselves decided of this priority. All the members present in the meeting including Bulbul Nazir affirmed this position.

RS in a brief address stated that three years ago, he had come to Yasin and was particularly happy that this time he was able to make the trip to Barkulti. He conveyed Sue York's greetings to the villagers of Barkulti where she had spent many months in 1983. On a query as to the future plans of the VO, some of the members responded by saying that after the completion of the PPI, they would develop land and acquire skills through AKRSP extension programme. On the issue of coordination and cooperation between the VO and the UCs, the GM enquired of the Union Councillors of the possibility of pooling of resources for undertaking implementation of UC plans instead of the present practice of spreading Union Council funds too thinly with little impact. The Chairman and the members promised to consider the proposal.

Next the helicopter landed at Sultanabad where out of seven proposed protective bunds, two have been completed and three are under construction. The local villagers had learnt to make the wire crates and were now well adept at making the bunds.

In the meeting by the bund site, where approx. 70 members of the VO were present, the progress of the organisation since last visit on 18.2.84 was reported as follows:

- increased membership from 96 to 98 and savings from Rs.14,000 to Rs.,15,168.

On a query by the GM about the activities of village specialists trained under the AKRSP extension programme, the livestock specialist reported that he had treated 65 animals since his training in September and done of the animals died but he had not been paid for his services either by the individual or the VO. The plant protection and production specialist also voiced his grievances against the VO for not giving him opportunity to explained to the members what he had learnt. The President and the Manager of the organisation on the other hand blamed the village specialists for not telling them what was to be done. The GM explained very clearly to the members that since it was at their behest that the village specialists were trained, they were obligated to ensure that their services were properly utilized and paid for. The organisation

accepted this responsibility and the GM asked the SO to follow up the matter.

On a query the Manager informed that the construction of the seven protective bunds would reclaim 4,500 kanals of land for the members of the VO, the development of which would be discussed in the meeting of the organisation.

Ms Khalida Nasir the women's programme visiting consultant who had accompanied the MG, held a separate meeting with the women of the village assisted by SO Mairaj Khan.

Since the helicopter could not land at the helipad prepared near the Buajyote water channel, the MG walked up to the site and traversed on the newly constructed channel measuring 3,500 feet which as complete - the workmanship was a very high order but it appeared that the organisation was dormant in terms of meetings and savings. The President and the Manager were exhorted by the MG to motivate the members and start the process of village planning and development of the newly irrigated land. The Manager requested for extension of the channel by another 700 feet to which HWK responded by asking him to first get the land already commanded by the channel, developed.

The MG also inspected the channel under construction for village Atkash.

At 1530 hours the helicopter landed at Bubar where nearly 100 members of the organisation were present. The Manager gave the following data:

-	Date of formation	November 1983
-	Total membership	97
-	Meetings held	Weekly
-	Total savings	Rs.7,124

Project under implementation. A Khul or irrigation channel measuring 11,000 feet of which 2/3 of the work has been completed and the remainder is expected to be finished by April. In the meeting with the members, HWK explained in Shina the process of village planning and SSK dilated on the principles of development interpreted by MYK who met the MG on arrival along with the Assistant Engineer, Mr. M. Sabir. By now very cold winds were blowing and RS could hear the chattering of MSR's teeth and praying that SSK's sermon would end soon. However, since it was a good gathering including the Chairman of the Regional Council, Ghizar, SSK exploited the occasion to the fullest.

Next the helicopter landed at Sharkoi about which the following information was given:

-	Date of formation	9.12.1983
-	Total membership	59
-	Meetings held	Weekly
-	Total savings	Rs.6,200
-	Project under implementation.	A khul or irrigation channel

The work on the construction of the channel was in full swing and RS and HF were greatly impressed by what they saw. The villagers had literally blasted the channel through steep rocks and to ensure sufficient flow of water and permanent maintenance of the channel, had concreted the right bank of the channel which was not included in the cost estimates by the Engineering Section. This was villagers own contribution to their own work. The ease with which the villagers were handling the mobile drill and explosives, both of which were demonstrated for the benefit of the MG and the visitors, was most impressive. The channel, the MG told, would bring 1,000 kanals of new land under irrigation.

After this inspiring displays of community cohesiveness and collective management by the VOs, the helicopter took off and landed at Gilgit airport.