

August 11, 1983

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Participants:- The Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Iftikhar and 24 persons comprising members of the District Council, Chairmen and Member of Union Councils and local Ismaili leaders and social workers.

The Chairman, BOD had specially asked for commencement of AKRSP activities in Booni area. This introductory meeting was convened to explain to the people of Booni the aims and objectives of AKRSP which was done in a brief speech by the GM. During the discussion session, members present thanked the GM for having come to Booni and put up projects pertaining to particular villages for consideration of AKRSP. The GM thereafter explained the methodology of AKRSP and the need for holding dialogues in each village to help identify the needs of the area. The AC also commended this strategy and requested the members present to fully cooperate with AKRSP in implementing their strategy. The GM informed the gathering that before the end of the month, AKRSP would ensure posting of an SOU with headquarters at Booni for undertaking the diagnostic survey of the area and the MG would also make more frequent visit to expedite the initiation, commencement and implementation of the projects.

The gathering impressed upon the MG the need for giving attention to the area in view of the geo-political importance of the area which borders with Wakhan corridor which has now been annexed by the Soviet Union.

The AC entertained the MG to tea at his residence and also showed the GM his kitchen garden which indeed was very well-tended and kept. The GM promised to present the AC some saffron bulbs for trying them out in the Booni area.

From Booni the helicopter flew to Immit and the MG started their third dialogue with nearly 200 members of the Immit VO at 1130 hours. The representatives of the organisation had bitterly complained a few days earlier to the GM at Gilgit for non-attention by AKRSP to their needs despite the formation of the VO and identification of a project in February 1983. It was in answer to their complaint that the MG had come to Immit.

The SOU informed that earlier the villagers had identified a protective bund as their priority need, however, now they have changed it to a channel. On being questioned, the President of the VO informed that in fact their priority need is the channel but as they were given to understand by IRD (UNDP/FAO) project and NAWO that they would construct the channel, they decided to ask AKRSP to help them in their second priority need which was a protective bund. The factual position is that the channel would irrigate nearly 12,000 to 16,000 kanals of undeveloped land. And as IRD and NAWO are dragging their feet on the project, the VO requested for AKRSP's help.

Since the channel had been surveyed by the Surveyor, HWK explained the details of the project namely 12,000 feet length capable of carrying 12 cusecs of water. The members of the VO stated that the land was equally distributed amongst the 201 households of Immit and there was no dispute as to the ownership. Although one representative of village Gishgish claimed that they also had a right in the area. However, it was said that this right was only of the nature of grazing rights and the title of land truly and undisputedly belong to all the villagers of Immit. The GM explained to the gathering the different components of the project, the cost estimates namely cost of explosives and cost of equipment and enquired of the VO their need for capital to complete the work if explosives and equipment were made available. This ensued a lively and heated debates on the question. One person claimed that since this was their own work, they should be paid a higher daily wage for working on the channel compared to what the contractor paid them. On being questioned if he paid his wife and children anything or at higher rate for doing their own work, there was

silence. The gathering broke-up in smaller groups to discuss the matter and ultimately left on the GM to decide as to how much AkRSP should make available for labour. The GM offered in addition to explosives and equipment a slum sum amount of Rs.84,000 for completing the 12,000 feet channel. The organisation was informed that if they were willing to commence work on this condition, the first instalment would be made available to them with which they will have to complete 3,000 feet and on satisfactory completion of this, the organisation would be entitled to the second instalment. According to the estimates, the labour component would ensure a daily wage of Rs.12 per manday. After making this offer, the MG took off for Gilgit.

On the way the GM inspected the flood protective bunds constructed at Phakora, one of which had been damaged by floods. The GM suggested to HWK to depute Darjat to make a case study of the project and to find out the solution of this problem with the help of Sub-engineer SOU Singal. If successful, this can be documented in shape of monograph which would be of great help in constructing flood protection bunds in the project area. Since there are a number of villages which wanted flood protection works, the monograph will be of immense value and utility.

The helicopter touched down at Gilgit at 1400 hours.