

May 3-5, 1983

**NOTE FOR THE RECORD**

**Subject: Extension of AKRSP activities to Chitral.**

May 3, 1983	1100-1330 hours 1430-1530 hours 1730-1900 hours	Drosh Tehsil Headquarters Village Gabur in Lotkoh Valley. District Council, Chitral.
May 4, 1983	1000 hours  1700 hours	Meeting with Commissioner, Malakand Division and district administration officials.  Reception at the palace of Mehtar of Chitral.
May 5, 1983	0745 hours 0935 hours	Left Chitral by helicopter via Shandur Pass Arrived Gilgit

**Participants:**

In the meetings, discussions and visits included the:

- Commissioner Malakand Division
- DIG (Police), Malakand Division
- Deputy Commissioner, Chitral
- SP Chitral
- Commandant Chitral Scouts
- District Councilors of Chitral
- Chairmen and Members of Drosh Union Councils and villagers of Gabur
- Mr. Latif Hasan, Chairman District Council Gilgit accompanied GM AKRSP and
- Mr. Robert d'Arcy Shaw, Director of Special Programmes, AKF Geneva.

The visit to Chitral like the visit in April 1983 had to be postponed from May 2 to 3, 1983 due to non-availability of helicopter. However, the Commissioner Malakand Division was informed of the change well in time and was saved of the inconvenience of waiting at the Kabal airport for the helicopter as he had to do along with the Additional Chief Secretary (P&D), last time. At Kabal airport, Mr. Shamsher Ali Khan, Commissioner Malakand Division along with Mr. Khurshid, Acting DIG Police boarded the helicopter for onward journey to Chitral.

In the meeting at Drosh tehsil nearly 40 Chairmen and Member of the UCs participated besides the officials. The Commissioner briefly introduced the programme and GM elucidated the aims and objectives of AKRSP. The Chairman, District Council Mr. Khurshid Ali lauded the concept of AKRSP specially the idea of partnership and underscored the importance of Ishtirak Amal in achievement of Pakistan and its importance in attainment of development of backward areas. He lamented the lack of resources and funds with the Union Councils and praised the work of the District Council despite meagre resources.

In the discussions, Qazi Nizam, Chairman UC Lagoon thanked His Highness for the tremendous work he and his ancestors had rendered for the cause of Islam and Pakistan. He observed that although His Highness has the good of all the people in the area at his heart but the local functionaries of the community have often misappropriated the assistance meant for everyone and he expressed the hope that AKRSP would truly prove to be a vehicle of development for everyone in the area. Another elder Mr. Ashraf Khan,

Member DC Chitral describing the problems faced by the people of Chitral valley mentioned scarcity of land and irrigation water and need for land development, provision of irrigation water and fertilizer as the main requirements of the area. He emphasised the need for a survey to assess the needs of the people. He also challenged the official census figures and pointed out that there were at least 3 to 4 lac of people in 6,500 sq. miles of the district area.

The Commissioner again clarified the AKRSP approach and the process of diagnostic survey as an integral part of the AKRSP Programming Cycle.

The Chairman, District Council Gilgit Mr. Latif Hasan addressing the gathering stated that the backwardness of the area about which we talk about, if the development could become half as efficient as AKRSP, the backwardness would be removed. He lauded the work done by AKRSP in such a short period in the district of Gilgit and invited representatives of Chitral to visit Gilgit to see the work done by AKRSP for themselves.

Gabur is a boundary village at the farthest trip of the Lotkoh valley. It is inhabited by 120 households, most of whom speak Persian (Dari type). About 50 household members were present to meet us. The village is about nine miles from Garam Chashma but has no road. There was a dispensary building which appeared totally out of place in terms of architectural blending with the local environment. Since the people of this valley had always been in the habit of receiving subsidies, it needed considerable persuasion to motivate them to identify needs which will produce benefits on a continuing basis. Ultimately they identified need for an irrigation water channel for undeveloped lands. They identified the following persons as their contact men for undertaking survey of the channel by the AKRSP SOU namely:

- Jamadar Mir Alam
- Haji Abdullah
- Haji Daulat Beg
- Haji Muhammad Hussain

The area is only suitable for one crop due to severe weather conditions. We were entertained to a lavish tea by the local Scouts. The Commissioner, the DIG, the DC, the SP and the Commandant Chitral Scouts accompanied GM on this visit.

From Gabur we landed at Garam Chashma where the rest house has all modern facilities including a covered swimming pool which is fed directly by the hot springs. The water in the taps seems to come out of an electric geyser, although in actual fact it is only spring water. The area is also replete with trout and in no time, Mr. Abdur Rauf Yousafzai had a number of fried trout ready for the evening team. In the meeting with about 25 elders of the area, the Commissioner explained the non-sectarian nature of the programme and methodology of AKRSP. One of the elders identified the following as the needs of the area:

- Pesticides
- Development of barren land
- Fruit nursery (3,000 fruit plants were distributed by IPS through their one acre nursery which is not sufficient to meet the demand)
- Drinking water supply
- Fuel scarcity
- Encouragement of cottage industries
- Sewing and embroidery centres for women
- Hydel power (also referred to the ATDO power station being set up with IPS assistance).

The GM explained the methodology of AKRSP and the process of diagnostic survey and the need for dialogues with 1,500 households, comprising the conglomerate of the Gram Chashma villages. He explained to the spokesman of the gathering namely Mr. Soba Khan, Headmaster of the local school, the importance of identifying location specific projects through inter-action with the inhabitants of each village instead of drawing up a plan of development based on general needs. The GM promised to send the SOU of AKRSP to

undertake the diagnostic surveys.

The helicopter touched down at Chitral at 1730 hours and the group made straight for the DC Hall where 20 members of the council were present. The Commissioner on the request of Chairman, DC Chitral explained the AKRSP programme and referred to the statement of Mr. Khurshid Ali regarding non-sectarian nature of the District Council of which both Sunni and Ismaili members were present. He underlined, the non-sectarian nature of the AKRSP. He referred to the salient features of the programme namely its focus on the production sector and also mentioned its achievements in a short period in the Gilgit district.

The GM referred to the essentials of agricultural and rural development on which AKRSP strategy was based and pointed out the obligations necessary for development on both sides i.e. the rural people and the programme. Clarifications by the members were sought about payment for labour and the methodology of maintenance of works done, organization of people, their training and collaboration with government. The GM clarified the issues but the most effective statement was made by Mr. Latif Hasan, Chairman District Council, Gilgit who observed that the AKRSP methodology is easy, effective and the best. He was literally in love with the methodology. He stated that initially he has also sceptical but after seeing a few projects, he noted the effectiveness of the programme. He invited the District Council members to come and visit Gilgit district because they have not understood what AKRSP methodology is? Once they see it, they will understand. He continued that 90% of our people are not only illiterate but are also unemployed and unproductive. AKRSP not only provides them employment but also upgrades their productive skills. It works with the people and even in engineering projects, involves knowledgeable villagers. In a lighter vein the Chairman, DC Chitral said that the Chairman, DC Gilgit was in love with AKRSP methodology because he was getting all the milk. Mr. Latif Hasan rejoined that they were getting the milk because they were giving their blood and if the people of Chitral also cooperate in the same with AkRSP, they will also get all the benefits.

The meeting ended with a tea party hosted by the District Council, Chitral. The Chairman Mr. Khurshid Ali and the other members assured of full cooperation with AKRSP.

May 4, 1983

In the discussions with the Commissioner and the officials of the district administration, the following arrangements were made for initiating activities in the district of Chitral:

1. Establishment of SOU with headquarters at Chitral comprising Mr. Ghulam Habib, the SO, Mr. Afzal Shah, Consulting Assistant Engineer and Mr. Gari Khan, Agriculturist.
2. The SOU would commence survey of the Lotkoh Valley starting from village Gabur and also survey some of the surrounding villages towards Drosh and Buni from Chitral.
3. Office accommodation would be provided by the DC for the SOU and also residential accommodation for Mr. Ghulam Habib, SO.
4. One of the District pool jeeps would be made available for use by the SOU, repairs and POL expenditure for the jeep will be met by AKRSP.
5. Survey equipment available at now defunct Drosh IrDP Centre, would be given temporarily on loan to the SOU for survey purposes.

Due to inclement weather, the projected visit to Buni, Mastuj and Lasht had to be canceled and so also the returns plans to Gilgit on the afternoon on 4.,5.1983. On the morning of the 5th, the group returned to Gilgit via Shandur Pass and the Malakand Divisional officials proceeded onwards to Saidu Sharif. As on the last visit the cooperation and hospitality extended by Commissioner, Malakand Division and the officials of District Council Chitral was overwhelming.

