CONTENTS

Cultural and Educational News......... Pages 7 - 10
Economic News................................. Pages 11- 15
Political News................................. Pages 3 - 7

Afghanistan Council Activities....... Page 1
New Publications............................ Page 1
Travel Notes................................. Page 16

Book Reviews - BR 1 ( Page 17 )
Adamec........ BR 9
Badshah Khan.. BR 8
Buck.......... BR 7
Dupree....... BR 1
Kakar....... BR 5
Stewart..... BR 3
Zalmay...... BR 4

U.S. State Department report of Kissinger visit to Afghanistan ...... last page

Please send any information or suggestions for future Newsletters, new publications or copies of books for review to the Afghanistan Council c/o the Asia Society.

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KISSINGER TO VISIT KABUL

In connection with his visit to South Asia, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has accepted the invitation of the Afghan Government to make a brief official visit to Kabul on November 1, 1974. This will be the first high level contact between the United States and the new Republican Government of Afghanistan. While in Kabul, the Secretary will have talks with Deputy Foreign Minister, Waheed Abdullah, Presidential Advisor, Mohammad Naim and President and Prime Minister Daoud. President Daoud will give a luncheon for Secretary and Mrs. Kissinger and the official party. After lunch, a special Buzkashi match has been scheduled in the Secretary's honor. A full report of the visit will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Jamhouriat – an English language newspaper was issued from the office of the Pashtu-Dari newspaper of the same name. The first number appeared on June 12, 1974 and ran six pages following a "premat which, unlike the Kabul Times, deals exclusively with internal questions. General topics such as social reforms, economic reforms and foreign policy received special attention. Under the editorship of Dr. M. Asef Sohail, the publication encourages its materials to be reissued by other publications. The publication will appear "from time to time" but plans call for its expansion into a "periodical" eventually.

The Emergence of Technocrats in Modern Afghanistan, by Louis Dupree, AUFS (LD-2-74). Vol. XVIII, No. 5. Patterns of socio-political stratification are covered between 1880-1973. The article is a briefer version of an article to be published at a later date.

AFGHANISTAN, issued June and September, 1973, carried valuable articles about Afghan historical, literary and archeological subjects. Among authors contributing articles are Paul Bernard, Z. Tarzi, Mohammad Anas, A.R. Pazhwak, Walter Dobbins and A. Hakim Tabibi.

Aスタンプ: An Annotated Bibliography, Parts I & II. Journal of the Society for Philatelic Americans, September and October, 1974. Compiled by Cecil H. Uyehara. Mr. Uyehara has collected and annotated a total of 113 references to Afghan stamps appearing in the English language in periodicals and printed sources. The earliest references date from 1873. The bibliography is preceded by a brief essay on the subject.

Historical and Political Who's Who of Afghanistan, by Ludwig W. Adamec, Akademische Druck- u. Verlagsanstalt, Graz, 1974, pp. 480. This is the first comprehensive biographical dictionary published on Afghanistan. The work contains about 1,500 entries and is divided into the following parts: 1) Who was Who, 1747-1945, 2) Who's Who, 1945-73, 3) Afghan Government Positions, 1900-1973, 4) Geneologies of Important Afghan Families, 19th and 20th Centuries. IN PRESS.


AFGHANISTAN COUNCIL NEWS

November 11, 1974 12.30 pm "New Directions in Afghan-American Relations," a lecture by Thomas Gouttierre, Director of the Center for Afghan Studies at the University of Nebraska. Future programs will be given by Louis and Nancy Dupree, Stanley Hallet, and Anne Marie Schimmel.


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NEWS, NOTICES CONTACTS, COVER IDEAS ETC.

Please send any information or suggestions for future newsletters to the Afghanistan Council, The Asia Society, 112 East 64th Street, New York, NY 10021.
The National Anthem

As long as earth and sky exist
As long as the world exists
As long as life in the world exists
As long as there is one Afghan
There will always be an Afghanistan
Long live the Afghan people
Long live the Republic
Long live national unity
Long live the Afghan people and Republic (2)
National unity, National unity.

(This is an unofficial translation prepared especially for the Afghanistan Council Newsletter.)
Much of the political news from Afghanistan during the period covered by this issue of the Newsletter centered around a difference of opinion between the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan and the resulting dialogue.

The Afghan Council feels that this should be reported and the editors have tried to select representative material as it has come to our attention. Because the Newsletter is basically a vehicle for news from Afghanistan, more space is given to the subject as it appears in Afghanistan.

The views expressed are those of the parties and publications involved and are not the views of either the Afghanistan Council or the Asia Society.

PAKISTAN

The recent communication addressed to Your Excellency by the President and Prime Minister of Afghanistan was of very great concern to my country, and has caused deep indignation in Pakistan. It constitutes gross interference in Pakistan's internal affairs and violates all the norms of international conduct and the principles of the United Nations Charter. It is indeed ironic that the Afghan Government of National Order has invited these principles to seek to justify his unwarranted demand for international intervention in our domestic affairs in order to cover up his designs against the territorial integrity and political independence of Pakistan.

The international community is aware that the Afghan rulers have brutally advanced irredentist claims to large parts of the territory of Pakistan. Afghan propaganda spares no effort in terms of distortion, half-truths and in order to spread disinformation in order to incite the Afghan people. We have also irrefutable evidence that the present Afghan Government is systematically organizing, aiding and abetting the commission of acts of sabotage and terrorism through hired elements within our territory.

This is precisely what the Afghan Government is doing in certain parts of the Baluchistan province of Pakistan. There is a tribal area whose land was taken by force, and has been exploited and ravaged by the Afghan rulers and their allies. There has been widespread damage to the economic resources of the area by these elements. In the last few years, the Afghan Government has sponsored the implementation of the principles of the security in this area and has been taking steps to protect the rights and interests of the people of Baluchistan, in cooperation with the local authorities.

This message follows requests submitted by the leaders of the Opposition Parties of Pakistan and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Secretary General of the Islamic Conference, the International Commission of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The request is that the military authorities and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees be given immediate and urgent steps to ensure the safety and protection of human rights.

E.H. Mr. Khilfer Ali Bhoona, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, during his recent visit to Afghanistan, has expressed the desire of the Afghan people to coexist in peace and to work together for the prosperity and development of the region. Pakistan has invited the Afghan Government to participate in the development efforts in the region and to work together for the benefit of the people of the region.

It is shown hypocrisy for the Afghan rulers to pose as champions of human rights. By and large, that country remains a medieval state where repression is a way of life and democratic institutions or fundamental human rights are non-existent. The physical elimination of political opponents is more often the rule rather than the exception. The Afghan rulers have been known to sponsor acts of violence and terrorism against the people of Pakistan.

In order to put an end to this situation, Pakistan has taken a number of steps, including the suspension of military assistance, the withdrawal of military personnel, and the imposition of economic sanctions. These measures have been taken in order to protect the interests of the people of Pakistan and to ensure their right to self-determination.

Pakistan can also justify interference in internal events in Afghanistan on the grounds that the country's military, under the leadership of President Ahmad Shah, has a record of not only suppressing internal opposition but also of committing widespread human rights abuses. The Afghan Government has been known to support extremist groups and to engage in acts of terrorism against Pakistan.

Pakistan has always scrupulously adhered to these principles in its relations with other States. It supports these States to observe these principles. Indeed, these principles form the very foundation of the system of international relations conceived by the UN Charter. It is only on the basis of these principles that friendly and neighbourly relations can be established between Pakistan and Afghanistan. I trust that Your Excellency will inform the President of Afghanistan accordingly.
Pakistan Says India's Forces Move Closer to Kashmir Line

NEW YORK TIMES

Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said today that Pakistan's border troops had moved closer to the line of control that divides the disputed Kashmir region between Pakistan and India.

He said the troops had moved to positions to counter a possible Indian attack.

India, meanwhile, denied that its forces had moved closer to the line of control.

Pakistan's move is likely to increase tensions in the region, where India and Pakistan have been宿敌 for decades.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Security Council called for a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

Baseless, India Says

NEW DELHI, July 11 (Reuters) - The Indian government said today that the Indian forces had moved closer to the line of control, but denied that it was a military build-up.

"The allegations are baseless," a government spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, India's border patrol forces have been on high alert, with reports of increased activity along the line of control.

PAKISTAN Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto denounced the claim as "baseless".

"The Indian forces have not moved closer to the line of control," he said.

Meanwhile, the United Nations called for a diplomatic solution to the conflict, with a special envoy to monitor the situation.

Meanwhile, the Indian government said it would not yield to any pressure from Pakistan.

RAWALPINDI, Saturday, April 12

Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said today that the move was part of a "grand design" to force the United States to recognize the independence of Pakistan.

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POLITICAL NEWS FROM THE KABUL TIMES

AUQAF BUDGET: At a meeting chaired by Minis-
ter of Justice, Dr. Abdul Majid and attended by the
Supreme Council of the High Office of Auqaf the
budget for the Auqaf was approved. The budget
includes provisions for the construction of thirty new mosques and the payment of salaries of the Imams and attendants of the mosques. 6/11. 74, p.1)

BHUTTO'S CHARGES: Commenting on the statement by Pakistani President Bhutto about the unrest and clashes in Pakistan recently, the Afghan Foreign Ministry addressed itself to his charges that recent unrest was due to "the visit of the head of state of Afghanistan to Moscow, the testing of a nuclear device by India, and the visit by the National Awami Party leader Khan Abdul Wali Khan to Afghanistan." The Afghan spokesman replied that, "Bhutto is trying to cover his failure in suppressing Pashtun and Baluch independence move-
ments and the rise of Moslems of Pakistan against the Qadyanis through confusing and diverting public opinion. Afghan-Soviet friendship is twice as old as Pakistan and the head of state of Afghanistan does not regulate the timing of a visit to friendly countries with the intensity of Pakistani governments' problems." (6/16/74, p.1)

COMMUNITY COUNCILS TO BE SET UP IN KABUL:
Jamhuriat editorialized on the decision to establish Community Councils and stated that the jirga (council) was a part of Afghan tradition. The experimental councils, set up in two districts, are to negotiate disputes arising locally among individuals and families to avoid recourse to courts and open hostility. The experiment is part of the program of the Ministry of Justice. 6/15/74, p.2)

INCREASE IN TAXES: Reassessment of internal property taxation and attack on corruption and default of taxes formed part of the Republic's attempts to increase domestic revenues. It is hoped that increasing domestic revenues, encour-
aging private investment and charging stiff tariffs on luxury items will spur economic growth and decrease dependence on foreign loans. (6/18/74, p.2)

FIRST YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC: In response to questions posed by an East German journalist resident Daoud summed up the first year of the republic as follows "We concentrated, more than on anything else, on two areas:

"The stabilisation of the republic, and the solution of major economic problems. On both fronts results are satisfactory.
"In the first area, which is consolidation of the republic, there is no problem. For the solution of economic problems, negoti-
ations continue with missions of friendly countries, from Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, India and the Federal Republic of Germany. These negotiations have partly been completed with positive results. It is our hope that subsequent talks with friendly countries will also bring positive results."

To questions concerning elections and political parties he replied "We think that all of our people ought to be involved in economic and social affairs, share the destiny of their country and expend their efforts on tasks that are considered essential for the advance-
ment of our country. At present I cannot say with certainty that which form of political party - one or several - will come into being. But our own bitter experiences and a study of the countries with same conditions as those of ours, have shown us that a multiparty system creates problems and at times blocks advancement."

On the issue of the economy and land reform the interview proceeded thus.

Q. It can be deduced from various documents that the Republic of Afghanistan wishes to build a guided economy. The interpretation of the people of my own country of this concept is that, in such an economy, at least mines and industries producing primary commodities and energy are the property of the public and of the state. Will it be correct if we are to understand the guided economy of Afghanistan as meaning the same thing?

A. Yes, this understanding of our guided economy is correct. What is public property should be in the hands of the people and the state. All mines, energy, major and basic industries, and likewise provision of foodstuffs are administered by the state. Partly this objective has been achieved, and partly what is considered to be public property shall be administered by the state. Factories and small production firms which are floated with private investment shall be guided in the framework of the law so that fruits of their functioning will benefit the people.

Q. As far as I can see, land reform is one of the important issues of Afghanistan. You have started to distribute state-owned lands

- 5 -
(Political news from the Kabul Times cont.)

to nearly 4,000 families. Will you please explain as to what will be the future steps in this direction?
A. Land reform will be carried out in two ways; fundamental land reform will be organized by law. This law is now under study. In this law it will be ascertained that in what way, and in how many phases land should be distributed in an equitable way.
The other way is distribution of the land that is property of the state. Lands distributed so far have been distributed to persons who did not own land, and more land has been distributed to the nomads, so that they will settle. This will continue until such time that land reform law will come in force generally. (6/3/74)

AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Waheed Abdullah headed a delegation to Bangladesh on an official visit which resulted in the signing of the first trade agreement between the two countries. During the visit in Bangladesh the Deputy Foreign Minister met and held talks with Mohammed Ullah, President, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister, and others. (7/2/74)

4th OF JULY Articles and editorials in Afghan newspapers marked the observance of the U.S. Independence Day. Pictures of Presidents Washington and Richard Nixon were featured on the front page of the Kabul Times along with an editorial extolling Afghan-U.S. relations. An editorial in the daily Jamhouriat concluded: "The existence of amicable ties between the people of both countries and the fact that the presidents of both countries in the past have paid official and friendly visits to each other's country and know each other, and they were warmly welcomed by the people of each country, is an example of the wishes of both sides for strengthening these friendly ties and expansion and continuation of economic cooperation." On July 6th, the front page of the Kabul Times featured a picture of the U.S. Ambassador welcoming Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sharq to the Independence Day reception at the U.S. Embassy. Additionally, Radio Afghanistan broadcast a special program concerning the U.S. Independence Day on the 4th of July.

AFGHAN-TURKISH COOPERATION Mr. Waheed Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs headed a delegation including Mr. Abdul Ahad Nasser-Ziayee, Assistant Chef de Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on an official visit to Turkey.

While there he met with President Fahri S. Koruturk, Minister of Foreign Affairs Tura Gunes, and Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit. A joint communique issued at the end of the visit stated that "the two ministers examined the bilateral relations in all their aspects and decided to spend efforts with a view to further strengthen these relations, especially in the economic, commercial and cultural fields," and they decided to start negotiations "with the aim of concluding a Commercial Agreement and a Technical Cooperation Agreement between Turkey and Afghanistan." (7/14/74)

OFFICIAL VISIT At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Abbas Khalatbary paid an official visit to Kabul August 28 - September 1, 1974. Views were exchanged on international and regional developments and expanding mutual cooperation. (9/2/74)

USSR TO AID METEOROLOGY Dr. Abdul Khaliq, Vice-President of the Afghan Air Authority, signed a protocol on behalf of Afghanistan to extend the technical assistance agreement of 1962 with the USSR for another four years. The Soviet Union will expand its cooperation in organizing the meteorological control facilities at Kabul International Airport and will provide equipment for meteorological centers in Kandahar, Herat and Kunduz. (9/5/74)

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED According to the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry diplomatic relations were established between Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam as of September 14, 1974. (9/18/74)

TURKEY'S INTERIOR MINISTER VISITS AFGHANISTAN Turkey's Minister of the Interior, Oguz Asilturk arrived in Kabul on September 19 for an official visit. According to the Kabul Times Minister Asilturk carried a message from Turkish President Fahri Koruturk to President and Prime Minister Mohammad Daoud. The subject of the message was not disclosed. The Minister and his companions paid a visit to the Kabul Museum. (9/21/74)
Radio Afghanistan
In line with its broadcasting policy, the radio announced several times a week on its Ajax and Radio Afgan money programmes. In addition, the radio will broadcast at least one programme per week to different parts of the country.

Radio Farsi
Radio Farsi announced that it will broadcast on a regular basis.

Radio Kurdisch
Radio Kurdisch announced that it will broadcast on a regular basis.

Radio Urdu
Radio Urdu announced that it will broadcast on a regular basis.

Radio Pashto
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Radio Pushto
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Following is an interview with the Justice Minister Dr. Abdul Qadir after the publication of the report on the issue of Jammouri: quarterly.

Q. What are the achievements made in the field of justice in Saratang 27, until the end of March 1937771?

The Ministry of Justice, in the light of the fact that the legal and judicial system was underpriced and ineffective, has decided to publish a quarterly report of the activities of the Ministry in order to make the public aware of the progress made by the court system. The report would highlight the achievements made in the field of justice in Saratang 27, until the end of March 193771.

Q. Have the personal rights of the persons in delay or any other delays or postcases been taken to investigate and proceed according to the negligence of the justice and judiciary officials and gave them recommendations in accordance with their wrongdoing. For instance, 50 percent of the judges and members of various courts were subjected to disciplinary actions, five received court punishment and 45 persons were pronounced guilty by the courts concerned.

In order to prevent uca absenteeism, the future the Ministry of Justice is taking this connection.

Q.-In order to prevent the shortcomings in the future, the Ministry of Justice is taking the following detailed forms for the evaluation and assessment of the work done by the Ministry. The Ministry has decided to reject the activities of the judicial authorities each month. This is to be done in a way that the work can be watched out for and work done by the judiciary can be reviewed. It has also been resolved that some court verdicts will be published for public scrutiny and the students of law can study them for their use in future.

Q.-What steps have been taken to do so?

A. Practical and scientific means and ways to speed up the justice and the judicial personnel in the courts and the judiciary shall be continued during the programs of the preliminary judicial studies committee, the establishment of a special library enhancing the content the Qaza magazine, collection of professional useful publications from the friendly Islamic nations and finally sending out judicial personnel to receive educational training and education in some of the friendly countries.

Q. Would you give some information on the actions taken by the Ministry of Justice?

A. As far as the accomplishments of the two main offices of the Deputy Attorney General are concerned, the Ministry is taking steps by the Investigation and petition Department to implement its recommendations. The courts have recommended the use of new technology and the use of the radio to deliver judicial decisions.

In the last 10 months the Ministry has included agreements with 26 foreign countries to deliver posts to different parts of the country.

In addition, the Ministry has installed 55 post boxes in different parts of Kabul city for public use.

In the past year, the Ministry has produced 660,000 stamps at different sites and denominations and on various national and international occasions. It has also printed 83,000 aragros.

On TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH:

200 telephone lines have been extended in different parts of the city. To control technical stations, the Ministry has purchased a number of new equipment and space parts. During the past year, the Ministry has collected 73 million in the capital and provinces of the telephone.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:

According to plans, an exchange center have 1200 lines to be installed in Kharkhan Mina. The project will be financed by the German Development Bank. In this connection the Ministry has already established a test station for the installation of exchange center in Kharkhan Mina.

The Ministry has already started work on a modern building for the installation of exchange center in Kharkhan Mina.

A post office will also be housed at the present 30 percent of construction work on the building has been completed.

The Ministry plans to buy two mobile telephone stations to control the area of various functions. It is expected that these stations will be completed and put into service this year.

To house radio receiver and transmission sets two buildings are under construction by the Ministry of Communications in Yaka and Shirin Mina. The project has already been completed and its construction work will be started after receipt of equipment.

Afghanistan has already joined the Asian Communications network as a member. The grid in Afghanistan begins in Turkmenistan, extends through Tajikistan and reaches to Kabul via Jalalabad and will be extended to Kandahar and Islamabad and then to Pakistan.

For improving communication services between Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan, the Ministry is planned to be extended to Kabul which will have direct connection with India.

The second region of the regional coordinators of Afghanas, Iran and India was held in Kabul last October. The participants in the session discussed a program for the project in Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan. The program aims to connect the regions by extending the communication network. The project is expected to continue for eight months.

Construction work on the number of post offices in the crowded areas of the city continues. The Ministry plans to print 750,000 postal stamps and 200,000 aragros during the current year. Also several new post offices will be established during the year.
WOMEN'S YEAR

Functions in connection with International Woman's Year are being celebrated in all parts of Afghanistan and amply described in all of the newspapers. Women's Coordination Committees have been set up in many of the provinces as well as in Kabul.

A feature article by Afzal Nasiri (KT 3/10) describes a photographic exhibition on the women's movement in Afghanistan over the past 50 years. The exhibition was held at the Kabul Nendari in March and was organized by the WCC of the Ministry of Information and Culture in cooperation with the Women's Institute, Bakhhtar News Agency's photographic department, the maternity hospital, Family Guidance Assn. and a number of private individuals. Over 300 photographs beginning 50 years ago when "the foundation for the emancipation of women was laid" were on exhibit. One showed a group of 6 Afghan girls who were the first to have been sent to Turkey for higher education. The article states that the emergence of women in Afghanistan gradually accelerated over the years but that the real breakthrough came in 1959 when, under then Prime Minister Daoud, the veil was discarded and went on "but the photographs speak of themselves. The Afghan woman proved herself capable of meeting the challenge of entering the society as equals."

As early as 1300 a column, Namwarane Zanane Jahan (famous women of the world), was introduced in Serajul Akhbar, edited by Mahmoud Tarzi. It was written by Asma Rasna and Rooh Afza. "Indirectly the writers tried to inspire the public with the progress of women in other nations. This met with stiff resistance but the column managed to survive with the newspaper." The WCC intends to reproduce a collection of these columns. It also hopes to publish a magazine. KT 3/10.

The members of the WCC and the teaching staff of the Education Ministry will hold joint conferences every two weeks throughout the year in Kabul high schools. The first joint conference was held April 9 when articles about the fundamental educational reform, the effect of vocational education at girl's schools, equal rights and the development of women's social services were discussed. KT 4/7, 4/10.

Bakhitar reports that the Cabinet has ruled that women shall not be employed for underground mine work. KT 3/9.

An exhibition showing the role of women in the life of the province was organized by the WCC of Nangarhar at the time of the traditional "Orange Blossom" fair, April 10. The Minister of Information and Culture, Dr. Nevin, announced in his message that the event was being observed as a national festival. Other events included the reading of articles and the works of 40 famous poets, a concert by artists of Radio Afghanistan, a film showing and a baton display. The WCC in Nangarhar province was set up in late January at a ceremony in Jalalabad. KT 2/3, 4/12.

An article on the "Opinion Page" of the daily Anis (2/24) states, "The Women's Coordination Committee (WCC) has decided that one of its groups in charge of home economics should carry out comprehensive studies regarding the sale of handicrafts by Afghan women." The article goes on to point out that women's crafts have been exported - particularly needlework. It urges that studies of working conditions be made particularly in the carpet industry. The writer hopes that the touring WCC groups will not adhere solely to ceremonial visits but will meet with working women and establish close contacts to help them solve their problems. KT 2/25.

Deva (4/10) reported that women's salaries at the Bagromi Textile Factory were equal to those of men engaged in equal kinds of work.

The College of Medicine of Kabul University graduated 14 female doctors this year. 66 male doctors were graduated. KT 2/10

PUBLIC HEALTH

World Health Day was observed throughout Afghanistan with special ceremonies, newspaper articles and features, messages and film showings. The major theme was the eradication of small pox in Afghanistan. (There have been no cases reported since 1972.) KT 4/7

UNDP and WHO will give Afghanistan ca. $1 million for an anti-malaria campaign over a 3-year period. The Afghan government will contribute MS. 162 million to the project. KT 3/5.

The Public Health Institute has been officially accepted as a member of the association of the World Public Health Schools. KT 3/17
"Qurbani" play staged at Kabul Nandari

KABUL, Feb. 1, (Bakhtar).—On the occasion of the International Women's Year a drama entitled "Qurbani" (sacrifice) was staged in Kabul Nandari Thursday night.

Some cabinet members, high-ranking officials and some members of diplomatic corps residing in Kabul watched the play at the invitation of the Arts and Culture Department of Ministry of Information and Culture.

CHARIKAR, April 28, (Bakhtar).—Parwan Women's Coordination Committee was established last Wednesday with the co-operation of Women's Coordination Committee of Ministry of Information and Culture for celebrating the International Women's Year.

Mrs. Nazifa, headmaster of Charikar Girls School, was elected as its chairman.

A function held on the occasion at Charikar Cinema Auditorium was attended by Parwan Governor Mohammad Gul, Mrs. Aziza the President and members of Women's Coordination Committee for celebrating the International Women's Year and a great number of intellectual women of Parwan province.
The news section of the December issue of Afghanistan Historical and Cultural Quarterly contains the following information on the Mundigak site: ..."Researchers exploring a site 50 km northwest of Kandahar near Kishk-i-Nakhod and Shah Maqsud's mountain state have uncovered the remains of Mundigak, an area thought to have had an Aryan civilization 5,000 years ago. Mundigak is a mound 31 meters high situated between the Arghandab and Helmand rivers. Though very scenic, the area has been in a remote location for years. Camel caravans traveling from Herat to Baluchistan used this as a part of their route for hundreds of years. The evidence found there is actually quite surprisingly detailed for workmen have found brick houses, pottery and figurines painted with prehistoric animals and geometric symbols. Much of the pottery remains resemble the prehistoric pottery of Kuita Baluchistan. Metal objects found and chemically analyzed have proven the existence of Mundigak as long ago as 2625 B.C. One of the more interesting artifacts found at Mundigak is a woman's figure done in pottery with a necklace hanging between her breasts. Today the site can be reached without much difficulty but a more interesting and worthwhile adventure is a trip to Kafir s museum where all of the items found at Mundigak and elsewhere in Afghanistan are on display." ***

A Kabul Times reporter attended a lecture on April 12 by the Assistant Director of the French Archaeological Delegation in Afghanistan, Mr. Francfort. In the article the reporter states: "Ai-Khanum is the last, but not the least, of the numerous field researches of the DAFA since 1923... Ai-Khanum throws a new light on the Graeco-Bactrian period of the history of Afghanistan, which begins with the expedition of Alexander the Great in 330 B.C. and ends about 130 B.C. During these two centuries, Ai-Khanum was one of the most important towns of the province of Bactria... situated at the meeting point of Kokcha and Oxus Rivers. The lecturer... pointed out the fact that just after the departure of the Greeks of Bactria, the buildings were badly damaged by antique pillagers searching metal, stone and baked bricks... A tomb in a mausoleum was discovered plundered but by chance in a good state of preservation. The soil, the walls, the door (made of limestone) and a sarcophagus were clearly visible. Among numerous architectural remains (palace, temple, tombs, gymnasium, rampart) and the objects discovered in Ai-Khanum, the most striking is one colored stone mosaic discovered in 1974 in a bathroom of the palace. The mosaic is made of white, black and red river stones. It represents sea animals and sea monsters around a central star motif. The animals are dolphins, crabs and hippocamps, the monsters are dragons... We have here a new example of the connections which existed at that time between the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and the banks of the Oxus. We hope that this splendid big (5x5 m) mosaic will either be removed to the Kabul Museum or visible in its original place." ***

The Department of Archaeology and Antiquities of the Ministry of Information and Culture signed a joint research agreement on April 16 with the British Institute for Afghan Studies. The agreement calls for excavations at Kandahar, restoration of the Chakari Minaret and the Guldar Stupa and the publication of the results of the findings. KT 4/17

A joint archaeological delegation of the Ministry of Information and Culture and the British Institute of Afghanistan began excavation work on three parts of the old city of Kandahar on April 28. Each area will cover 20 sq. meters. Although the work is financed by the British Institute, the excavated relics will belong to Afghanistan. KT 4/29 ***

In an editorial on April 9, the KT comments on the need for a new home for the Kabul Museum. It states that the estimated cost of over $7 million is keeping the project from "taking off" and suggests that a substantial part of the money could come from the state if efforts were made to solicit additional contributions both at home and abroad and if the Dept. of Archaeology and Antiquities and the Administration of Museums jointly prepared a campaign. ***

Albert de Lapparant who spent 15 years as head of the French Archaeological team in Afghanistan died recently in Paris. De Lapparant, a geologist, came to Afghanistan in 1961. KT 3/5
AFGHAN STUDIES WEEK AT OMAHA

The Center for Afghanistan Studies (CAS) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) forms the foundation for developing an International Studies program on the UNO campus. CAS is directed by Thomas Gouttierre, formerly with the Peace Corps in Afghanistan and most recently Director of the Afghan-American Educational Commission (AFAMEC) in Kabul. To further the goals of the CAS, an Afghanistan Studies Week was scheduled from April 6 - 11, 1975. Special guests included the Afghan Ambassador to the United States, Abdullah Malikyar; Mr. Arnold Schifferdecker, Afghan Desk Officer, U.S. Department of State; and Professor and Mrs. Louis Dupree.

The guests presented special public lectures, radio and television programs as well as classroom lectures emphasizing the culture and history of Afghanistan. Nancy Hatch Dupree checked and advised on the large collection of published works on Afghanistan which forms one of the more important resources of the CAS. A most generous contribution by Arthur Paul of his collection of works on Afghanistan makes this collection at Omaha one of the more complete depositories in the United States.

In addition, five ethnographic films produced by the American Universities Field Staff, for which Louis and Nancy Dupree were the cultural advisors, were shown to the public and in numerous classes. These observational films provided an interesting, and at times, amusing contrast with the commercial films also shown on several occasions: Omar Sharif in The Horseman and Tyrone Power in King of the Khyber Rifles.

Adding to the festive air of Afghanistan Week were the 26 officers from 7 Afghan ministries participating in the National Development Training Project (NDTP) which provides specialized training in public administration and management, and the visiting professors from Kabul University participating in the Higher Education Program for Kabul University. The pilau with many side dishes such as kofta, burani and bulani which was prepared by the Afghan participants was a high moment during Afghan Week at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.
President and Prime Minister
Mohammad Daoud among the people in Kandahar.
Chapter 10 (pp. 365-396) entitled Afghanistan: Education in an Integrated Agricultural Program by Manzoor Ahmed and Philip Coombs is a survey of the Program of Agricultural Credit and Cooperation in Afghanistan (PACCA).


Nancy Hatch Dupree is the author of the article An Interpretation of the Role of the Hoopoe in Afghan Folklore and Magic listed in Vol. III, No. 1 of the Afghanistan Council Newsletter.

Soviet Books


B.A. Zakhar' in, Problemy fonologii iazyka kashmiri (Phonology problems of the Kashmiri language), Moscow, Nauka, 1974. p. 164. rub. 1.07.

Polveka mirogo sotrudnichestva (K 50-letiui dogovorov Sovetskogo Soiuza s Afghanistomnom, Iranom i Turtsiei) (50 years of peaceful cooperation of the USSR with Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey) (collected essays). Moscow, Nauka, 1974. p. 240. rub. 0.75.

Samarkandskije dokumenty XV-XVI vv. (O vladeniikh Khodzhi Akhrara v Srednei Azii i Afghanstane) (Samarkand documents of the XV-XVI Centuries - About the rule of Haji Ahrar in Central Asia and Afghanistan), Moscow, Nauka, 1974. p. 632. rub. 3.50.

Skazki, basni i legendy beludzhei (Baluchi tales, fables and legends). Tr. from English. Moscow, Nauka, 1974. p. 176. rub. 0.56.


The December issue of Afghanistan Historical and Cultural Quarterly contains articles on A Short Historical and Geographical Description of the Cities of Aryana by Moh. O. Sidqi (the cities are listed alphabetically from Aahengan in Chor to Poshang, known today as Zendaqan); Ag Kuprak: Art and Symbol by Alexander Marshack; The Meaning of Prayer in Mawlana Jalalodin Balkhi's Work by Annemarie Schimmel; Seljuq Ziarats of Sar-i-Pul (Afghanistan) by A.D.H. Bivar; L'Histoire du Bouddhisme en Asie Moyenne by I.M. Wahabzada; and Bibliographi de l'Afghanistan by M. Akram.

The latest Afghanistan Journal contains the following articles: Teppiche aus Afghanistan by K. Zipper; Will the Sikhs take Jalalabad? by Nancy Dupree; Les Peintures sur Camions en Afghanistan by M. Centlivres; Nuristan's Cliff-Hangers by Stanley Hallet and Rafi Samizay; Kantholzlexport nach Pakistan by A. Janata; and Trekking über den Anjuman-Pass by P.A. Bucherer-Dietschi. The issue also contained travel information from Vol. II, No. 3 of this Newsletter.


BOOK REVIEW


This guide replaces two earlier editions, and is both fuller and better printed. Many specialists assisted in the preparation of this guide, which makes it more than a mere catalogue of the objects on display in the museum since interpretations of the objects are also given. The various rooms of the museum and the position of the objects in each case are systematically covered, plus the customs regulations for the export of art objects from Afghanistan. A map of the major cities and historic sites of the country, an ethnic map and a table of general chronology enhance the value of the guide. Especially noteworthy are the illustrations, fourteen of which are in color, printed in Japan.

One might quarrel with some of the assertions in the guide (for example, p.112 "the Sasanians conquered Balkh about 245 and had reached Peshawar by 260 ") but the overall high quality of the publication makes of it a model for museum guides.

Richard Frye

AFGHANISTAN COUNCIL NEWS

Sufi literature as it has developed in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan formed the subject of a lecture given by Prof. Annemarie Schimmel of Harvard and the University of Bonn at Asia Society on April 28, 1975. Prof. Schimmel, a widely known author and teacher, attended the 7th annual celebration of the birthday of Jelaluddin Rumi (Balkhi) in October which took place under the joint sponsorship of the Goethe Institute and the Afghan Government. During her talk she referred to this event and the fact that the present Afghan land includes areas in which the oldest branches of Sufism have developed. The sufi mystics Hallaj, Sana'i, Attar and Rumi as well as the Pakistani poet of more recent years, Iqbal, were treated by Prof. Schimmel as she showed how various ideas had entered Muslim sufism, ideas such as the love of God which changed the shape of a sufism which originally was highly ascetic. The use of female motifs entered Muslim mysticism through the influence of Hinduism and clearly manifests itself on the Indian subcontinent. Although the connection between Persian and Pashtu mystical poetry still awaits proper study, according to the lecturer, Pashtu poetry manifests a stern ascetic influence from Khorasan and Ghazni making it less romantic than poetry produced farther south.

Eden Naby

Three special papers based on lectures given at Asia House under the auspices of the Afghanistan Council will be included in the Council's Publications Series. They will be Sufi Literature by Prof. Annemarie Schimmel, Kabul: City at the Crossroads by Nancy Hatch Dupree and The New Republic of Afghanistan: The First 18 Months by Dr. Louis Dupree.

***

New publications .....continued

Bechhoefer, William B., Seraf Lahorti: Traditional Housing in the Old City of Kabul, University of Maryland School of Architecture publication a-75-1, June 1975.

Dupree, Louis, Ag Kupruk: A Town in Northern Afghanistan, Common Ground - a journal of the American Universities Field Staff, Vol.1 #2, April 1975.


Cultures of the Hindu Kush, Selected Papers from the Hindu-Kush Cultural Conference held at Moesgård, 1970. (Beiträge zur Südasien-Forschung, Südasien-Institut, Universität Heidelberg, Bd. 1.)
Karl Jettmar, ed., in collaboration with Lennart Edelberg, Wiesbaden, Franz Steiner Verlag, 1974, xiv and 146 pp., 12 plates, 1 map. DM 19.80

This volume provides a sampling of current research on the Kafir-speaking peoples of Afghan Nuristani and western Chitrãl. The range of data presented, sometimes systematized and analyzed, sometimes not, gives an idea of the great amount of ethnographic description that remains to be done, as the oldest generations diminish and the likelihood of cultural change grows. The reader frequently notices how tentative still is the understanding of the deep historical context of the Nuristani. This is hardly surprising, given the methodological problem in the study of any relict group with ancient roots: What can be attributed to the original cultural core; what has been borrowed, and when? The original close relationship of all the Indo-Iranian peoples adds to the difficulty of this differentiation in the case of the Nuristani. These 22 papers are ordered into seven groups; their published form varies from rather bare summary to full text.

G. Morgenstierne surveys precisely the Dardic and Kafir languages and their distribution. He emphasizes the important archaisms in Kafir, but it still cannot be determined whether proto-Kafir separated from the still continuous Indo-Iranian group or from an already separated Indic division.

Papers 2-4 concern history. K. Kristiansen gives excerpts from the Urdu manuscript of the Kafir Azar (the complete translation is to be published). His autobiography includes the period of Abd-ur-rahman's conquest. From his description of the Katis is quoted an account of their festivals. The five seasonal festivals, while containing many predictable elements, do remind one of the six Old Iranian festivals, and a relationship is possible. Very summary are R. Strand's "Native Accounts of Kom History" (on some 19th century tribal movements) and W. Ali Shah's "Invasions Preceding the Conquest of Nuristan."

Papers 5-8 deal with Kafir religion. Hussam-ul-Mulk provides data collected in the 30's on Kati accounts of the creation and the deeds of the gods. G. Buddruss focuses on the myth of the sun and moon's release from the demons' captivity. He suggests that this contains a survival of the old Aryan motif of the stoppage of the life-giving waters and their release. (Cf., in passing, the minor role of Indr in Kafir mythology with Iranian Indar's low status as a petty demon, both in contrast to Indian Indra.) W. Lentz makes a speculative comparison of the sun-moon theme in Kafir and Mithraic mythologies. K. Jettmar's thesis of "Iranian Influence in the Culture of the Hindu Kush," occurring repeatedly over a long period, is plausible and thought-provoking.

Papers 9-12 are sociological. S. Jones discusses the villages of the Waigal valley; he stresses the non-centrality of power, the mode of conflict resolution, social strata and competition. Strand's two articles are methodical analyses of kinship structure among the Kom and their pre-Islamic ranks and governmental units. A.R. Palwal also gives data on ranks.

Papers 13-18 form an interesting compilation of folklore material. 13-17 concern the Kalash. W. Ali Shah, after discussing some of the possible historical movements, summarizes their beliefs and customs, interpretations of natural phenomena, several myths and legends. Hussam-ul-Mulk recounts some prominent divinities. P. Snoy's
"Dizila Wat!" describes the "stone of creativeness" -- boulders shallowly engraved with images of wild goats (unfortunately not illustrated) which figure in the mythology. The importance of the markhor in Kāfir legend and ritual is particularly evident here. It is pointed out again in H. Siiger's "The Joshi of the Kalash, Main Traits of the Spring Festival at Balanguru in 1948." Palwal briefly describes "The Harvesting Festivals of the Kalash in the Birir Valley." Hussam-ul-Mulk's extensive article on various Kho superstitions and beliefs regarding witches, giants and fairies -- their functions (beneficent and malefic) and relations with mankind (communication, possession) -- is especially interesting. One wishes for further information. Is the "lightning" dog who visits the places of birth and of corpse-washing always harmful? Cf. the Zoroastrian funeral ritual of "the gazing of the dog" (sagdtī). The Kho belief that a dog with a round mark above each eye repels ghosts certainly compares closely with the Zoroastrian's use of a "four-eyed" dog in their ritual. But is this parallel fortuitous or due to independent preservation of a common Aryan belief or an old Kāfir borrowing?

The final section (papers 19-22) points to the uncertain future of Kāfir culture. W. Ali Shah calls for UNESCO aid in preserving buildings and artifacts. L. Edelberg's two papers on architecture (types of house structures, the "clan-house" of Kāfir priests), which are illustrated by most of the plates, also raise the question of preservation. E. Hansen, finally, points out that economic development is already leading to cultural change and threatens the survival of traditional Nūristānī crafts. He discusses the need for careful economic planning aiming to support the customary Nūristānī ways of life.

The volume concludes with the full program of the conference, a list of participants, the resolution sent to UNESCO and a composite bibliography.

Christopher J. Brunner

Irano-Dardica. (Beiträge zur Iranistik, Bd.5.)
Georg Morgenstierne, Wiesbaden, Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag, 1973. 388 pp., index. DM 90 (approx.)

Georg Morgenstierne has been the major modern linguistic researcher in Afghanistan and the border districts of Pakistan. This compilation of his more important articles is an appropriate honor to his work. It is also a convenience for Iranist and Indianist alike, while the word-index further facilitates its use.

The 27 articles mostly appeared between 1930 and 1964. Several contain addenda or revisions, and three are new: "Final -ā and -ā in Iranian," "Additional Notes on Waqetsi," "Die Stellung der Kafirsprachen." The range of these articles' subject matter provides a cross-section of Prof. Morgenstierne's life-work: Old Iranian (one article), Balūčī (one), western Iranian languages (two), Indo-Iranian word studies (three), Pashto and Waqetsi (four), Kāfirī languages and ethnography (four), eastern Iranian frontier languages (six) and Indo-Aryan languages (six).

Christopher J. Brunner
Dictionary of Oriental Literatures


This last volume, edited by Jiri Becka, takes in Afghanistan, Iran and what is labeled "The Soviet East" comprising language areas such as Kirghiz and Yaqt which do not readily fall under the heading of West Asia.

Each volume of the set contains a list of the writers and topics discussed in the text which is, in encyclopedic fashion, arranged alphabetically. Such a system simplifies locating entries by eliminating the problem of determining how the title of the entry has been transcribed. On the other hand, one must search through volumes II and III in order to locate all the Pushtu and Persian entries looking under such headings as Dari (Afghan Persian) Literature (III), Persian Literature (New Persian) (III), Tajik Literature (III), Indo-Persian Literature (II), and Pashtu Literature (II) and finally, Pashtu Literature (III). As the editor of volume III has pointed out in his introduction, the problem of assigning writers belonging to the common Islamic heritage to individual contemporary political states is a complicated task. In order to avoid some of the problems, all classical writers in Persian, from Rudaki to Farrokhzād, Amīr Khosrow, Sana'ī, Nizāmī (Ganjvi) although they may have produced their works in areas outside present-day Iran, have been placed together with others such as Sadīq Hedayat and Said Nafisi, for example, who are clearly "Iranian." Perhaps separating "Iranian" from "Persian" would have served to overcome this problem.

Further complicating the problem of identifying writers by nationality arises in the entries themselves where some authors are referred to as "Persian" and others as "Iranian" although they have been contemporaries; for example, Iraj Mirza (b. 1874) is called "Persian" while Hajjī Mihrāzibāy Talebāf (b. 1853) is called "Iranian." Then again, some writers like Abu'l Qasim Lahuti are included in the category of Iranian and Tajik.

The Afghan entries, Dari (9), Pashtu (17 in III and 4 in II) have all been contributed by Jiri Becka (Pashtu, Dari) and D.N. MacKenzie. With the exception of writers like Tarzi, al-Afghāni and Khoshhal Khan Khatak, these entries appear to provide the first biographical information in English about individual Afghan writers. Indeed, prior to the publication of these volumes, perhaps the only widely available biographical source for Afghan writers has been the two Soviet literary encyclopedias Literaturnaia entsiklopediia and Kratkaia sovetskaia entsiklopediia. Therefore, for those interested in Afghan writers, volume III particularly is a fast, easy way of finding basic information about major writers of the older generation.

A major effort of this sort, of course, contains a share of organizational and editorial drawbacks. One of them is the lack of sufficient bibliographical references. Most of the Afghan entries have no bibliographical references appended in any language although Persian, Pashtu, Italian, French and Russian sources, among others, do exist. In addition, certain minor errors have crept in, for example, on page 105 (III) Nasere Khosrou is confused with Amīr Khosrow and identified as an Indo-Persian poet.

All in all, however, this handsomely bound set can become a very handy reference tool for private and public libraries.

Eden Naby
Ministry of Mines and Industries

The following is an extract from the text of an interview with the Minister of Mines and Industries on the achievements of his Ministry during 1353.

Geological Survey Department: The activities of the department centered around the prospecting for minerals and the mapping of mineral rich areas. Significant progress was achieved in the prospecting of copper, mica, fluorite, asbestos, gold, other rare minerals as well as potable water.

Copper - the preliminary surveys carried out so far on the Ainak copper reserves revealed the existence of 21/2m. tons of copper. Prospecting work for a final assessment is continuing on a large scale. Other copper bearing areas have been discovered in Darband, Jauhar, Taghar and Khurd Kabul and searching and prospecting continues in these areas.

Gold - detailed surveys have established the existence of large reserves of gold in Senati. Prospecting work was completed on Dare Mashhad and prospecting for sedimentary reserves were planned for the areas of Jurbashi and Khwaja Ghar.

Mining Department: The mining department continued with the exploitation of the berite, t/lc, lapis lazuli, mica and salt reserves.

Talc - in the interest of the public and with limited facilities the department started organized exploitation of the Nangarhar talc reserves. It was previously exploited by the local people in a somewhat old fashioned and uneconomic manner. From Saratan 26, 1353 hitherto some 1,550 tons of talc has been extracted from the Mama Khel mines; these particular mines are reputed to have some of the best talc reserves in the world. Studies and assessments of the mines in this area and in Achin continue but it can be said with certainty that the reserves are in commercial quantities and that both talc bearing formations are linked covering an area of 60 to 20 kms.

Berite - the Herat mines geographically and economically are favorably situated. Located 60 kms. north-west of Herat city - the reserves are 65 kms. from the Trougundhi (Afghan-Soviet border) railway and 14 kms. from the Trougundhi highway. Mapping, surveying, laboratory analyses and the gathering of samples for ascertaining the percentage of barium and sulfate have been completed. In the third quarter of last year 5,000 tons of berite were exported to the Soviet Union under a protocol to this effect signed by the two countries.

Lapis Lazuli - in the course of four months 8.5 tons of lapis lazuli was extracted; a quantity which in comparison to previous years is unprecedentedly large. In the second and third quarters of last year 198.555 kilograms were sold on the world market for $121,924.28. The mining department embarked on modern procedures to extract the stone resulting in less loss, waste and destruction of the mines. Afghan lapis lazuli enjoys a world wide reputation and it is expected that marketing this product overseas will boost considerably the foreign exchange earnings of the nation.

Mica - over the course of the year 1,352,374 tons of mica was extracted from the Nejrab and Kapisa mines and 39 tons from the Takano Maidan mine. As unprocessed mica has a limited world market it has been suggested that it should be offered for export in the form of sheets after sorting.

Salt - during the last year 5,096,133 seers (one seer equals 7.2 kgs.) of salt were mined and reached a total of afs.18,511,389 on the market. There are five reserves of salt of varying qualities in Afghanistan. These are located in Taluqan, Andkhoi, Kalafgan, Balkh and Herat.

Industries Department

Textile Mills - a contract was signed for the expansion of the production capacity of the Balkh Textile Mill from 11 to 18 m. meters a year. Work began on the second expansion project of the Bagrami Textile Mills. Survey work and project preparation for the Kandahar textile Mills was undertaken.

Additionally survey work and project preparation for tanning, cement, coal and abattoir establishments in Herat continue. The Shaker Porcelain factory which was inactive for some years was reactivated and now produces a variety of products. The Afghan Woollen Mill which has a capacity of 600,000 meters of woollen cloth blankets and carpets was once again operative. The Mines and Industries Ministry plans to expand this plant with the installation of more sophisticated machinery. The Ministry was also responsible for the idle sugar mill in Jalalabad reactivation.
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

The following is an extract from the text of an interview with the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation on the major extension operations carried out by his Ministry in 1353.

Aid to Farmers

63,000 tons of chemical fertilizer (17,000 tons more than 1352) was distributed to farmers. The Ministry's extension workers offered consultation and guidance on the use of the fertilizer.

The Ministry also distributed 25,000 tons of improved seeds and a further 20,000 tons were propagated and distributed by the farmers themselves. 3,000 kilograms of herbicides, 20 threshing machines, 60 seed cleansing machines and several sprayers were also distributed.

1,216 wheat demonstration plots were set up and 150 Ariana ploughs, 22,000 fruit trees were also put at the farmers disposal.

There was an increase of 28.9% in cotton production over last year. 130,000 farmers received 8,271 tons of cotton seeds, cotton producers received 8,481 tons of chemical fertilizer and 74,000 kgs of BHC powder. The year's cotton crop mounted to 145,000 tons and this was raised on 55,100 jeribs of land.

In an attempt to introduce farmers to better agrotechnics a number of demonstration plots were set up around the country.

Sugar beet producers received 258,000 kgs of sugar beet seeds and 1,176 tons of chemical fertilizer; there was an increase in sugar beet production of 11,000 tons over the previous year.

In an effort to popularise the cultivation of sunflowers (for the production of vegetable oil) "451 jerib sunflower demonstrations" were organized in 23 provinces. Special workshops were held for provincial extensions directors and training seminars were conducted for the extension workers on the improvement of seeds, use of chemical fertilizer, fighting crop diseases, sapling planting, crop rotation, grafting and pruning. Special publications were prepared by the extension department and were issued to those who were interested.

Agricultural Research

(Review of research carried out in nine research centers around the country.)

Experimental use of chemical fertilizer on various strains of wheat and other cereals, also on cotton, sunflower seeds, sugar beet, sesame and vegetables. The crossing of 24 strains of wheat and a number of strains of tomatoes. The development of new strains of sunflowers and cotton through crossing various strains. Experimental growing of 24 strains of cotton and the cultivation of 16 strains of spring and autumn wheats, 86 strains of rice, 20 strains of sugar beet, 13 strains of sugar cane, 36 strains of corn, 25 strains of soybeans, 16 strains of irrigated sesame and 16 strains of dryfarmed sesame, 65 strain of potatoes and other strains of vegetables as well as onions, tomatoes and 4 additional strains of sunflowers. Research was also conducted on weed control and 1,646 samples of soil, water and nutritive stuff were analysed. In the meantime 25,770 improved saplings of apples, pears, peaches etc. and 655,000 improved vegetable saplings from the research centers were distributed.

Plant preservation

Plant preservation was stepped up in 1353 - 79,189 hectares of land in 9 provinces conducted anti-locust operations while 85,386 hectares of land in 7 provinces were searched for locust egg laying areas. In 8 provinces 5,660,852 vine trees were treated against disease; additionally 126,174 trees in 7 provinces were sprayed and treated. Treatment of vegetables, sugar beet, cotton, rice and corn took place in 17 provinces. 787,082 jeribs of land in 14 provinces were covered by anti-rodent operations. Plant quarantine certificates were issued by the customs houses of Kabul, Nangarhar, Herat, Balkh and Kunduz which brought in revenues of afs. 1,579,000.

Nangarhar Development Project (Hadda and Ghaziabad farms)

The farms produced 1,905 tons of citrus fruit, 314 tons of olives, 10,045 tons of wheat, 253 tons of barley, 659 tons of milk, 3 tons of honey, 23 tons of meat, 316 calves, 295 tons of rice, 7,193 tons of fodder. The project's other activities involved the cleansing of 146 hectares of saline land, releveling of 300 hectares of land, cultivation for strengthening of land 1,804 hectares, cultivation for production 2,532 hectares. In addition 1,276.5 cubic meters of reinforced concrete was produced and the production of crates for the export of citrus fruit and olives was also carried out. Beehives were also under construction at the farms. 1,521 cubic meters of digging, filling and earth moving took place. 638 hectares of land was cleared of gravel and 197 hectares was laid with top soil.

Jamhouriat and Saratan 26 Farms

With the voluntary cooperation of the workers and officials of the Nangarar Development project work was continued on the farms. Thus far 270 hectares of land was levelled.
twice, citrus and olive saplings have been planted on 57 hectares of land, cereals have been raised on 1,300 hectares; drainage took place on 49 hectares while afforestation was conducted on 10 hectares. 36 hectares was given up by sapling planting and 120,000 cubic meters was laid with soil layer. Reconstruction of drainage canals covered 31,000 cubic meters of land. 10 hydrotechnical constructions were completed and 8 living quarters. 10,000 forest tree saplings were planted. Supplementary and drainage canals covered an area of 26.6 kilometers.

Upon completion of construction and irrigation the estimated production (under normal conditions) is expected to be 12,200 tons of citrus fruit and 25,000 tons of olives.

Distribution of Government Land to Landless
In accordance with the state policy to provide land to the landless, especially the settlement of land to the nomad population, 12,510 jeribs of land was distributed to 1,193 landless families. The land was reclaimed through the efforts of the Nangarhar Irrigation Project.

Development of Agricultural Cooperatives
This project aims at the establishment of primary and secondary cooperatives to familiarize farmers and fruit growers with the principles and practices of joint efforts.

During the past year 34 primary and secondary cooperatives were established in Kohdaman, Kandahar, Kara Bagh, Balkh, Logar and Baghland. The Institute of Advanced Agricultural Studies offered courses for 150 officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. A 3 months' course for 10 area representatives was conducted and in addition a course for agricultural development workers took place. Refresher courses and special workshops for in-service personnel were conducted. In addition a number of special documentary films on farm production were made. 8 persons were sent overseas for higher studies and 2,510 officials in Balkh, Logar and Kandahar received special training. Preparation for the granting of afs. 10m. in credits to Kohdaman cooperative members was arranged and in addition afs. 2m in marketing credit to cooperative members in Kohdaman and Kara Bagh was prepared by the Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan. (Kabul Times, 4/26&27/75)

Ministry of Public Works
Extract from the text of an interview with the Minister of Public Works on the achievements of his Ministry in 1353.

Roads
In 1353 the Ministry embarked upon an endeavor to improve road surfaces to allow speedier transportation and subsequently faster transaction of marketable goods. This was achieved through the process of asphalting coupled with the construction of culverts. The improvements occurred on roads in numerous localities which included Shiberghan and Daulatabad, 65 kms. and 83 culverts, Kunduz and Chishm 52 kms. and 149 culverts, Kabul and Gardez 118 kms, Gardez and Khost 22 kms and 49 culverts, Jalalabad and Assababad 65 kms. and 44 culverts, Dilaran and Zirinj 98 kms. and 10 culverts. The road to the Herat berite mine was also resurfaced.

In accordance with the set program a new road to the prison was completed as well as the Kohistan and Ghazni roads. The Kabal custom house received a new road and the Janda-Khairkhan Mona road was completed.

With the accomplishment of the aforementioned the roads around the Presidential Palace were asphaltered. Similarly treated were the Gul Chashma (air force) and the military roads of Sarai Ghazni, Central Garrison, Tajbek Hill and the roads inside the 8th division's quarters. Roads inside the Prime Ministry, the Hashim Maternity Hospital and the Central Garrison Hospital were newly surfaced. The road to the Pule Mahmoud abattoir was treated likewise.

Bridges
Survey work for the Sarkan bridge over the Kunar river was completed. Over the past year the following bridges were constructed - the Shargal bridge in Kunar province, the Darrakhal, Bangash, Gardarezai bridges and the Jabal Us Seraj bridge over the power station canal.

Construction
150 different kinds of construction projects, architectural blue prints, engineering, irrigation, electric power and where necessary central heating plants were designed, documented and approved. The most noteworthy of these were the restoration of the National Archives building, the central archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Hashim Maternity hospital, the central jail project and also projects for 14 wards in Kabul city. Construction projects for Afghan Diplomatic missions in New Delhi and Ankara similarly the Afghan consulate in Mashad. A Dormitory project for the Nangarhar University Medical School was conceived also a project for the custom house in Islam Qala. (continued on p. 26)
Ministry of Commerce

Extract from the text of an interview with the Minister of Commerce on the achievements of his Ministry in 1353.

In 1353 the Ministry assigned specific duties to different departments. This measure resulted in easing the work load. The Export Department was urged to find new markets, the Foreign Trade Department was asked to supervise earnestly the exports and imports of the country. Similarly the Local Trade Department was asked to carefully supervise price stabilization, distribution of licences and control of markets. Another department in the Ministry is the International Transport and Transit Department who undertake the supervision of international transport and transit and matters concerning river ports and the borders of the country.

Trade Expansion - steps were taken to establish trade licence agencies within the country and trade consulates and commercial attachés abroad. This was done in an effort to increase trade revenues and to provide better trade facilities. In addition to the two existing Trade Directorates in Kandahar and Nangarhar new branches were opened in Jazjan, Faryab, Ghazni, Pakthia, Herat and the Kabul custom house. Negotiations were carried out to establish trade consulates in Moscow and West Germany and also the appointments of trade attachés in Bombay and Kuwait.

Trade Development Program - in accordance with the policy statement of the state, the Ministry put into shape the trade development program. The objectives of the program are to increase national production and strengthen the productive class and the protection of the consumer.

Trade Rules and Regulations - with the idea of coordinating the entire state's economic program various new rules and regulations in trade management came into effect. Rules and regulations concerning training guidance were implemented. Similarly the creation of facilities for trade institutions became effective. On the basis of a new law the insurance companies will function as national bodies. Rules and regulations concerning the secretariat of the Commerce and Industry Chambers were compiled.

Trade Balances - on the basis of the figures obtained and forecasts made, the Ministry prepared the trade balance for 1354 and also analysed the trade balance for 1353.

Trade Marks and Signs - over the past year the Ministry began enacting a law for the differentiation and distinction of trade and industrial products. The law designed specifically to prevent the misuse and falsification of marks and signs of local and foreign products. The marks include, designs, photographs, letters, figures, titles, signatures etc.

Import of Basic Commodities - on the basis of statistical figures collected the Ministry fixed the import volume of many commodities and regulated their prices. Additionally a forecast of the volume of basic commodities needed by the population for 1354 was made.

Exports - the Ministry endeavoured to raise the standard of Afghan goods put on the international market. Publicity and promotion of Afghan goods was stepped up and attracted prospective customers.

Protocols and Agreements - Several protocols and agreements were signed in 1353. A transit accord with Iran was signed and also an agreement to export 10,000 tons of fresh fruit and 10,000 tons of cement to that country. Agreements were signed with Canada, Bangladesh, Hungary and Rumania. A protocol of barter exchange was signed with Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. A goods delivery protocol was also signed with the Soviet Union.

Export Development Bank - In order to encourage exporters and remove any financial difficulties the Export Development Bank was established in 1353.

(Kabul Times, 5/3 & 4/1975)

Loans and Agreements

Exchange of Goods Protocol - was signed recently signed between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Afghan exports will include natural gas, cotton, wool, oil bearing seeds, fresh and dry fruit, hides, carpets, cement, barite and talc. Imports from the USSR will include petroleum products, sugar, paper, stationery, vegetable oil, machinery, vehicles, chemicals, medicine, textiles and other consumer goods. (Kabul Times, 2/5/75)

Economic and Technical Agreement - for 308 m. rubles was signed between Soviet Union and Afghanistan. Some of the projects implemented are as follows; construction of a canal and pumping station in Khosh Tapa; construction of a dam and reservoir in Chashme Shafa on the Balkh river to provide irrigation for 76,000 hectares of land; construction of the Kelagai dam and power plant on the Kunduz river for power and irrigation; construction of a diversion dam on the Kokcha
river; construction of the Amu river bridge at Hairatan; housing projects in Kabul and Mazar; repair of Kabul airport; feasibility studies on copper smelting plants; construction of six airports in north east Afghanistan; construction of sound and film studios in Kabul; assistance in gas exploration, various textile projects and bakeries in Kabul, Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif. (Kabul Times, 2/27/75)

Agreements for Sugar Import - were signed on March 4. Afghanistan will import 5,000 tons from the USSR and 2,000 tons from the U.K. (Kabul Times, 3/5/75)

70 Additional Buses from the Tata Company of India - the 100 buses signed for with the same company, under an earlier agreement, are expected to arrive soon. (Kabul Times, 2/9/75)

Anis reported that 60% of the 400 buses now servicing Kabul are 2nd and 3rd hand and are unfit for public transportation. (Kabul Times, 2/10/75)

A charter for a National Bus Company has been approved and is to be formed. It is hoped that operations will start early next year under the presidency of Dr. Abdul Rafi Sanandari. (Kabul Times, 3/6/75)

Accord on Edible Oil and Matches - was signed recently with the Soviet Union. Under the agreement 1,000 tons of Samarkand edible oil and 10,000 boxes of matches. A source from the Food Procurement Department stated that the oil and matches will be distributed to civil servants and government employees against coupons. (Kabul Times, 4/10/75)

$350,000 Grant Aid from the U.S. - to finance a study to identify what electrical facilities will be needed in the future to utilize power generated at Kajakai. (Kabul Times, 4/21/75)

National Oil Company of Afghanistan Sign Agreement with Total - the French company will launch prospecting and extracting operations at its own expense in a 20,000 square km. area in Katawaz. The operations will be supervised by the Afghan National Oil Company. If oil is struck in commercial quantity, Total and ANOC will jointly arrange production and transport. Total will also train Afghan specialists in oil and gas technology and operations in France. The article states that a number of oil companies have approached ANOC but that the conditions offered by Total were "considerably more favorable than those offered to (sic) countries that have recently embarked upon such operations." (Kabul Times, 4/26/75)

Memorandum Signed March 20 in Teheran - Implementing the protocol signed on July 22, 1974. Agreement was reached on the following points:

1) Implementation of multipurpose programs in the lower Helmand basin and the Yakhchal-Disho road to the Iranian border highways - $7000 m. under easy terms.
2) Railroad and other projects. Iran will provide financial aid for their implementation after the completion of the technical and economic feasibility studies.
3) $10 m. under easy terms to establish an export bank in Afghanistan.
4) 200 large and 18 mini buses to be delivered under easy terms.
5) $2.5 m. to equip the central flight information center.
6) Trade expansion and transit facilities were also included in the agreement. (Kabul Times, 5/1/75)

Economic Briefs
Since the increased price of petroleum on foreign markets, the government, "in line with its policy for price stabilization of essential commodities," has decided to decrease the price of kerosene where it is a basic commodity. By exempting the kerosene from monopoly tax and customs duties the price per kilo will be afs. 3. Jamhouriat reported that the loss of revenue will be made up by taxing the sales of luxury goods imported into the country. (Kabul Times, 1/25/75)

The daily Jamhouriat reported that despite the economic crisis facing most developing countries - Afghanistan has improved its balance of trade, a surplus of some $30 m. and payments $11 m. (Kabul Times, 1/25/75)

* The possibility of establishing an olive processing factory (for production of standardized olive oil) at Nangarhar Development Valley Project is seriously being considered. (Kabul Times, 2/4/75)

* Government employees will receive fuel at subsidized prices. The Food Procurement Department also sells wheat, flour, vegetable oil, butter, sugar, soaps and detergents at subsidies and the editorial commends the policy. (Kabul Times, 2/12/75)
A cooperative for civil servants and teachers has been established which will provide essential commodities as wheat, edible oil, soap, tea, cloth, wood and coal. It is an expansion of that currently run by the Food
Procurement Department; one important change is that prices of commodities will be set in accordance with the individual's ability to pay. (Kabul Times, 3/9/75)

* The Investment Committee of the Planning Ministry has given its final approval for the establishment of an ice-making project in Nangarhar. It is expected to have a capacity of 3,000 tons per annum. Other programs discussed and approved in principal were for agricultural tools, a pharmaceutical and spinning projects. (Kabul Times, 2/3/75)

* Seven veterinary clinics will be established in northern and south-western provinces through an aid grant from the USSR. It will provide veterinary equipment, medicines, administrative equipment including fourteen vehicles with spare parts, as well as a number of technical experts. (Kabul Times, 2/8)

* The third meeting of the Managing Board of the Regional Project on Exploration and Conservation of Plant Germ Plasm in the Near East met in Kabul. Mohammad Aref Noori, president of the Research Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was elected chairman of the four day meeting. The Board was set up two and a half years ago through financial aid from the Swedish Government. Its purpose is to increase the overall production of improved varieties of plants and agricultural products. (Kabul Times, 2/25/75)

* The March 6 editorial of the Kabul Times commented on the variance of crops produced in Wardak and Bamian. At the advice of the extension workers, potatoes, cotton and even rice are being rotated and augmented - until three years ago the areas produced only sugar beet and wheat.

* The budget of Afghanistan for 1354 (1975-76) amounts to afs. 19,176,386,000 and is an increase of 56% over the current year. This amount includes both regular and development expenditures by the state during the next year. The regular budget is divided in two parts. The first part amounting to afs. 5,170,000,000 goes for regular state expenditures. This allocation is 19.62 per cent more than allocations for the same purpose in 1353. The second part of the regular budget consists of state help to organizations, civil servants and government employees. Allocations for this purpose amount to 47.50% of the regular budget, and is 56.8% more than allocations for the same purpose in 1353. The state development budget for 1354 amounts to afs. 9,321,511,000. This is 87.01% more than the development allocations of 1353. (Kabul Times, 3/8 & 9/75)

* The April 2 editorial of the Kabul Times commended the government for its efforts in collecting revenue. "There was an unprecedented increase of 56% in the state budget this year, and a greater part is due to reforms in revenue collection system." The same issue reported that more than afs. 15 m. of back taxes was collected in Parwan province last year. It was reported in the April 10 issue that the Jalalabad customs house revenues amounted to afs. 434 m. in 1353 and that there was an increase of afs. 236 m. over 1352.

* The April 8 editorial of the Kabul Times reported that the first public announcement of the Raisins Export Development Institute appeared in the April 8 edition of Jamhouriat. It called for raisin exporters to take part in the forwarding of 2,000 tons of raisins to Iraq. The source further elaborated that this was the first shipment of raisins to Iraq.

* Afghanistan and several other nations proposed a draft resolution at a recent general conference of the UN Industrial Development Organization in Peru. The proposal called for necessary assistance to land-locked, developing and less-developed nations, particularly in the field of industrial development. (Kabul Times, 4/1/75)

* The Murgha canal was opened in Spinboldak. The canal is 21 km. long, built with cement, was constructed at the cost of afs. 2m. It will provide drinking water for 260 families and will irrigate an area of 800 jeribs of land. (Kabul Times, 4/8/75)

* In its April 16 editorial the Kabul Times stated that all but 400,000 persons in Afghanistan had unsanitary drinking water.

* A special enterprise within the Ministry of Public Works has been established to coordinate and expand the activities related to construction and running of drinking water networks of the nation...." "The enterprise commences its functions with a floating capital of afs. 1,650m." The organizations' charter has been prepared and approved and will soon be published in the Official Gazette. The new organization will first "complete drinking networks in Kabul, Balkh, Kandahar, Herat and Nangarhar." (Kabul Times, 4/25/75)

Hungary will import 2,000 tons of cotton
purchased from the Spinzar Company of Afghanistan. The Addix & Cordes Breman Co. of the FRG has an agreement with the Helmand Cotton and Edible Oil Company for the purchase of 3,000 tons of cotton. Delivery of this $3 m. export order is expected to take place within the next three months. A British firm, Ralli of Liverpool, has signed an agreement to purchase 2,000 tons (sort two) of Helmand cotton. (Kabul Times, 4/21,5/4 & 10/75)

* The Sericulture Projects program expands and there was an increase in production of commercial silkworm and a 184% rise in output of silk cocoons in 1353 over the previous year. 27,150 boxes of silkworm eggs and 2,132 kgs. of silk cocoons were turned out in 1352. In 1353 sericulturists throughout the country produced a total of 245,000 kgs. of silk cocoons (158% over 1352) which realized approximately afs. 163 m. on the market. Last year sericulture centers in Balkh, Kunduz and Herat were established. (Kabul Times, 4/21/75)

* The USSR has given 1,000 tons of pesticides (BHC powder) for the locust campaign. In addition the Soviet Union will provide the services of a group of experts, 12 jeeps and other necessary equipment for the campaign. This year the campaign against locusts will be confined to the north - however, it will extend to any part of the country threatened by the pests. (Kabul Times, 5/10/75)

* Fish raised in Darunta dam under the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry’s Fish Production Project is once again on the market. The supply of 50 tons is considered small, and presumably there are still large quantities of fish in the deeper water of the dam where they go in the colder months. However, to date Afghanistan does not have the essential equipment and know-how for deep water fishing. Additionally, Afghanistan tradition has held that fish should only be consumed in the colder months; thus when the large quantities of fish do reappear closer to the surface in the warmer months of the year, it is not a popular and marketable food. The editorial further elaborated that since fish is an excellent nutritional source, methods of procuring these fish should be found for use in the colder months of the year. It suggested that the Nutritional Department of the Public Health Institute should help in educating the population in the highly nutritional value of fish regardless of the time of year. The source also suggested that the Helmand, Naghlu, Sardeh and other smaller reservoirs could also be used to raise fish. (Kabul Times, 2/3/75)

* The Government has recently allocated afs. 170 m. for oil exploration. Presently some 2,500 people including 240 foreign experts are engaged in the exploration of gas and oil. A new gas reserve was discovered in Juma and work continues to ascertain its size. Exploratory drilling in Aq Daria proved to be encouraging. The oil from this site proves to be of superior quality to that of the neighboring site at Angot. The Angot reserve is reputed to hold over 2 million tons of extractable oil. Past estimates of gas existence in Jarqoud was predicted at 31 billion cubic meters. However, last year when a well went out of control it was established that the reserve was considerably larger. During 1354 it is hoped that 35,000 meters of exploratory wells will be drilled in the provinces of Jozzan, Balkh and Fariab. Geological and seismic surveys will begin in Herat and Fariab. Apart from gas reserves found earlier from which quantities are presently being exported some 61 milliard meters of sulphur gas was found in Jarqoudg, Khwaja Gogerdaq, Yatin Taqw and Khwaja Bolan areas. (Kabul Times, 4/22/75)

* In an effort to create a healthy economy in both the public and private sectors and to effectively utilize the financial resources within the country - the government has decided to nationalize banks and banking. The new Money and Banking Law of Afghanistan has the approval of the Cabinet and has been endorsed by President Daoud. In a national address the President stated that by this measure the state will prevent the circulation of money on the black market at exhorbitant interest rates and will insure and encourage deposits and savings in banks. Instructions have been issued to the Finance Ministry to embark upon speedy nationalisation of banks and banking. (Kabul Times, 6/1/75)

* Ariana Afghan Airlines opened a sales office in Delhi in early March. Ariana now has scheduled flights from Kabul to Delhi, Amritsar, Tashkent, Damascus, Beirut, Istanbul, Frankfurt, Rome, Paris and London. The company is planning to extend air services to Peking and Japan. (Kabul Times, 3/3/75)

* Afghanistan will receive a $13 m. loan from the World Bank. Deputy Planning Minister
Abdul Aziz Terugh stated that the terms of the loan were favorable. Of the total sum, $2.8 m. is planned for the purchase of tractors; $6.8 m. for short term loans to include the purchase of fertilizer and improved seeds and more than $800,000 will be used for the construction of chemical fertilizer warehouses. (Kabul Times, 3/11/75)

Afs. 670 m. credit has been extended to farmers, livestock breeders, orchard owners and for industrial and agricultural projects during the past nine months by the Agricultural Development Bank. Most of the credit was for fertilizer. An editorial in the Kabul Times commends this effort but calls for the Agricultural Development Bank to commission studies on increasing fruit production. (Kabul Times, 2/15/75)

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Aryan Federation?

Raja Mahendra Pratap, the President of the Provincial Indian Government sheltered in Kabul during the period of Amanullah and a source of annoyance to the British still continues to be active from Vrinbadan, U.P. India. Raja Sahib is the founder and chief contributor to a monthly sheet called World Federation which in May, 1975 issued its 48th volume, No.5. In the April issue Raja Sahib writes of a visit to Kabul where he discussed with President Daoud an idea he has been espousing since 1935 - that of forming a land called Aryan - to run from Iran to Assam. Raja Sahib, who travelled to Nepal and other places on behalf of his Aryan Federation reports that President Daoud told him that "people in Afghanistan are free to take it (Aryan Federation) up."

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Films

Afghanistan: Emerging from Isolation - 20 minutes, 16 mm sound, color, No. 633448-1, rental $12.50, sale $315. Acquaints viewers with the physical characteristics of Afghanistan and points out how the country is emerging into the modern world with the help of American, German and Russian aid.

Stones of Eden - 25 minutes, 16 mm sound, color, rental $20.00, sale $340. Documents a year in the life of a farmer in the system of credit under which he must labor to purchase what he needs. His goal in life is to have his son go through school so that he can become a truck driver. Winner of several film awards.

The above mentioned films can be obtained from, McGraw-Hill Films, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020.

Life of a Nomad People - 10 minutes, color 2 film strips/1 record, $18.00, 2 cassettes, $26.00, 2 filmstrips captioned, $14.00. An intimate view of the Kuchis of Afghanistan.

The above mentioned can be rented from, Cownet Instructional Media, 65 East South Water St. Chicago, Illinois 60601

The annual Tulip Fair (Gule Surkh) in Mazar-i-sharif was the subject of an editorial in the daily Bedar of Mazar-i-sharif. The editorial noted that all the citizens of Mazar should cooperate to solve the problems involved with the arrival of thousands of guests involved for the event. (Kabul Times, 4/3/75)

Bahktar reports that the housing authority has saved more than afs. 34 m. by cutting unnecessary spending. The authority built six apartment houses, five schools and carried out small and medium-sized construction projects last year. The savings were made possible by "laying off redundant workers, making use of materials and working tools lying idle for years in its depots," reforming purchasing practices and by using used oils, sawdust and raw petroleum in brick oven and central steam plants. (Kabul Times 4/5/75)

(Ministry of Public Works cont. from p. 21)

Housing Construction

5 residential blocks inclusive of 148 apartments were completed. 5 schools to accommodate 500 pupils were built. The north-west electric power sub-station was also erected. The steps to the Gahzni stadium were completely demolished and rebuilt. Work on many other buildings is in progress.

Water Supply - with the assistance of the Japanese Government waterwork networks in four provinces (Kandahar, Herat, Jalalabad, Maze Sharif) were completed and ready for utilization. In 1353 approximately 19 projects were completed.

Dams and Canals - the preparation of maps, evaluation, completion of construction work was achieved over the past year on the Hood Khel dam and the Zana Khan dam. On both sites rooms for guards were built. Similar work was carried out on the left wall of the Seraj dam; at this site a water tower was built at the cost of afs. 200,000. Repair work for control purposes was undertaken on the Kharwar dam in Logar. (Kabul Times, 4/23 & 24/75)
The Annual Meeting of the ASA was held in San Francisco in March. (See Newsletter Vol. III No. 1 for details.) A panel on Diseernmental Processes in Afghanistan was held and, in addition to the four announced papers, a paper dealing with the economic impact of transportation on a small village in Nuristan was presented and discussed. The session was well attended with 20 persons, particularly in view of the poor showing at the entire AAS meeting. At the business meeting three members were elected to the Executive Committee to fill vacancies: Ludwig Adamec, University of Arizona; M. Mobin Shorish, University of Illinois, Urbana; and Basil C. Hedrick, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. These together with M. Jamil Hanifi, Northern Illinois University and Tom Gouttiere, University of Nebraska, Omaha, will carry out the work of the ASA. Hopefully the concentration of members in a relatively close geographical area will help in the coordination of the work.

At the general meeting it was decided that some formal connection with the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) would be sought; that an official link with Kabul would be sought; that the question of membership would be left to Omaha; and that the ASA would push into a new era of accomplishments in substantive matters of scholarship and studies.

The ASA Newsletter is being issued in a new format and will be sent to members three times a year - spring, fall and winter. The Spring, 1975 issue carried information about ASA activities, the Afghanistan program at Omaha, and information about the National Development Training Project for Afghanistan (NDTP). Information about the Newsletter is available from the Center for Afghanistan Studies, University of Nebraska at Omaha, P.O. Box 688, Omaha, Nebraska 68101.

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Society Tour a Success

The Asia Society's Arts of Asia Tour to Iran and Afghanistan was a great success. Elizabeth Ettinghausen was the tour lecturer and Dorothy Borromeo of Williams World Travel, Ltd., arranged for the group to visit the high points in the two countries.

The tour arrived in Teheran after an over-night stop in London and after a brief stop in Iran's capital to visit the Archaeological Museum and a few other sites, visited Abadan, Haft Tepe, Susa, Persepolis, Pasargadai, Naqsh-i-Rustam, Shiraz, Isfahan, Hamadan and Kermanshah.

In Kabul, Ambassador and Mrs. Theodore Eliot gave a reception for the group at their home. Local Afghan, American and European residents with interests similar to those of the tour members attended the reception and the event proved to be an interesting and enjoyable introduction to the country. Later in the stay Ambassador Eliot briefed the group at the embassy. The group went sightseeing in and around Kabul, visited the bazaars, traveled to Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif and the ancient city of Balkh. They returned to Kabul by road crossing the Salang Pass and passing through Tashkurgan and Pul-i-Khumri en route.

The group visited Bamiyan where they stayed in yurts. They toured the great Buddhas, the City of Noise, the Palace of the Daughter and visited the Red City where the more hearty members climbed to at least the first level; two members of the group braved the heights to the top.

The return was broken with an over-night stop in Athens.

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A Provisional Gazeteer of Afghanistan has been compiled by the Central Statistics Dept. of the Prime Ministry. The 1,500 page Gazeteer is basically a list of the names of the villages of Afghanistan, their socio-economic characteristics and "pertinent population figures." The Gazeteer is divided into four parts: 1) summaries of each province; 2) summaries of minor civil divisions including provincial centers; 3) village lists; 4) "index map of the minor civil divisions centers." A "national index map is provided at a scale of 1:2,000,000 with Vol. III of the Gazeteer."