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INFORMATION REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN

(March 1960)

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INFORMATION REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN

(March 1960)

INTRODUCTION

This monthly report provides significant political, economic, sociological, and military information on Afghanistan as presented by the leading Kabul newspapers Anis and Islah. Items of purely international significance have been excluded. This report covers the sources indicated, published mainly during the month of March 1960.

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INFORMATION REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN

Comments, Trends, and Developments

The Pakhtunistan Issue and Relations with Pakistan

1. Most of the space devoted to Pakistan and the problems of Pakhtunistan was taken by news reports concerning the efforts of the Pakhtuns in Pakistan to "liberate" themselves (see below for an analysis of the space devoted to various topics by the newspaper Anis during the month of March).

2. The newspaper Islah published an editorial on March 1 on the press conference of Foreign Minister Mohammad Na'im on 27 February (see JPRS report 3345, 26 May 1960, page 1). The editorial said that the government of Pakistan continues to suffocate the voice of the Pakhtuns who are struggling for freedom and self-determination but, because of the cultural and ethnic ties, Afghanistan cannot stay indifferent in this struggle and will continue to support the cause of the Pakhtuns.

3. Upon his return to Moscow from a tour of the Asiatic countries (see below) Nikita Khrushchev stated at a gathering at the Moscow stadium that the people of Pakhtunistan should be given freedom to choose their own path. The newspapers in Afghanistan played this up in large headlines (see, for example, Anis, 7 March).

4. On 7 March Premier Mohammad Daud held a press conference (Anis, 8 March) with the foreign and local press correspondents at which he said that the people of Pakhtunistan should determine their future through a referendum (to become an independent nation or a part of Afghanistan). The newspapers Anis and Islah published editorials on 9 March elaborating the Premier's remarks.

5. On 14 March Foreign Minister Mohammad Na'im issued a statement to a correspondent of the Bakhtar News Agency (Anis, 15 March) in which he referred to a recent statement by the Pakistan foreign minister admitting that the Pakhtuns in Pakistan and Afghanistan belong to one nation and should be joined together. The Afghan foreign minister noted this as "a confession of the Pakistani authorities that the Pakhtuns are one nation" but rejected the rest of the statement by the Pakistan foreign minister as "nonsense and even ridiculous." Foreign Minister Mohammad Na'im referred to the Pakhtuns in Pakistan as "Afghans" several times in the course of his statement. The newspapers Anis and Islah issued further editorials on 16 March supporting the statement by Foreign Minister Mohammad Na'im.

6. The newspapers Anis and Islah published editorials on 23 March to mark the national day of Pakistan. The papers stressed the desire of the Afghans to maintain brotherly relations with Pakistan but complained that the attitude of the Pakistan authorities toward the Pakhtunistan issue was detrimental to the maintenance of such relationships.

Relations with the Communist Bloc

1. The highlight of these relations during the month was the visit of Nikita Khrushchev to Afghanistan from March 2 to 5. Most of the space counted for this section (see below) was taken for reporting and commenting on this visit. Reports from the Associated Press and the United Press published by The Washington Post and Times Herald of March 3 stated that the reception given at the time of arrival of Khrushchev was "about equal to that for President Eisenhower last December, when an estimated 500,000 turned out" and that "Khrushchev was accorded a more elaborate and better-planned reception than Mr. Eisenhower had been" respectively. The local newspaper coverage was far more extensive than that accorded to President Eisenhower; but this can be attributed to the fact that Mr. Khrushchev stayed three days in Afghanistan while Mr. Eisenhower was there only for a few hours.

2. The chairman of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society in Kabul, Gol-Pacha Olfat, stated to the correspondent of the TASS that the people of Afghanistan welcome Khrushchev as a great international statesman and are convinced that the visit would further cement the cultural and economic ties between the two countries (Islah, 1 March). The newspapers Anis and Islah published numerous portraits of Khrushchev during the visit and called him "a very dear and beloved guest" in their editorials. They recalled his visit to the United States and his speech at the UN headquarters and cited these as efforts of Khrushchev to promote international peace and prosperity.

3. The newspaper Anis published the details of the arrival of Chairman Khrushchev on March 2 and quoted an estimated figure by Bakhtar News Agency that 500,000 people turned out to welcome Khrushchev. This paper also reported articles from the Soviet papers expressing appreciation of the Soviet peoples for the visit. In his welcoming speech, King Zahir said that this visit will further strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries. Khrushchev said in his speech that the relations between Afghanistan and the USSR, which are two countries with different social principles, should serve as an example of peaceful coexistence for the world. Apart from the Soviet officials who accompanied Khrushchev to Afghanistan, his daughters, his son, and his niece Yuliya were with him.

4. On 2 March Khrushchev visited King Zahir at Delgosha Palace and presented to him a model of the Soviet rocket which was sent to the moon. Gromyko, Mohammad Na'im, and other Soviet and Afghan officials were present at the ceremony. He also presented a model of the rocket to Premier Mohammad Daud later.

5. The newspaper Anis of 3 March carried the texts of speeches exchanged between Premier Mohammad Daud and Khrushchev at a party given by the former at Hotel Kabul. Khrushchev greeted the Afghan women who were present at the party and wished progress and prosperty for the Afghan women in his speech. It is recalled that a campaign was launched in Afghanistan recently to make the women take off their veils, go out, and generally free themselves from their traditional bond. The same issue of Anis also reported that all the Kabul and provincial newspapers have been publishing portraits of Khrushchev and writing commentaries on the visit.

6. The newspaper Anis reported on 5 March that due to the shortage of grains in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union has granted 50,000 tons of wheat to Afghanistan. The main editorial of this issue praised this action of the USSR. (The newspaper Islah also praised this in its editorial of March 6). This issue of the newspaper Anis also contained detailed reports on the following: inspection of the Kabul airport and the Jangalak industrial installation (both under construction by the USSR) by Khrushchev, dinner party by King Zahir for Khrushchev and the texts of the speeches exchanged, dinner party by Khrushchev for Premier Mohammad Daud and the texts of the speeches exchanged, meetings and negotiations between Khrushchev and Mohammad Daud, signing of the the joint communique and the cultural treaty, visit to the Kabul stadium and texts of the speeches exchanged between Khrushchev and the Mayor of Kabul, and the departure ceremony and text of the speech by Khrushchev at the airport. (Texts of some of the speeches were continued in the issue of March 6). The newspaper also reported that Khrushchev's daughters and niece paid a courtesy call on Princess Belqis at the royal palace on 4 March.

7. The newspaper Anis published the text of the joint communique issued by Khrushchev and Mohammad Daud in its issue of March 6. This issue also contained an editorial on this communique. Some of the highlights of the joint communique are the following. Khrushchev was warmly and enthusiastically received by the government and people of Afghanistan. Discussions were conducted between the two parties on Afghan-Soviet relations and on international affairs, particularly the questions concerning the Middle East and South East Asia. The relations between the two countries will be further expanded in the future. The neutrality of Afghanistan and her policy of non-participation in military pacts was affirmed and praised. Both sides agreed that military pacts do not help the strengthening of the peace in any way. Hopes were expressed that the nations who have not yet obtained their freedom will obtain them soon. Both sides agreed that in the interest of peace in the Middle East and in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations charter the self-determination of the people of Pakhtunistan would be a proper way to settle the issue. The Afghan government recognizes

the visit of Nikita Khrushchev to the United States and his peaceful proposals at the UN as an important contribution toward decreasing the international tension and creating understanding between nations. Both sides expressed hopes that the forthcoming visit of the President of the United States and the summit conference would contribute toward international understanding and peace. Both sides vouched for disarmament and discontinuation of the atomic weapons. Chairman Khrushchev expressed satisfaction of his visit to the projects in Kabul sponsored by the Soviet Union such as the silo, the bakery, the industrial workshops, and the airport. The Soviet Union has fully recognized the economic needs of Afghanistan and will continue to aid Afghanistan in her economic developments. A treaty was signed between the two states for the further strengthening of the cultural relations between the two countries. Khrushchev invited King Zahir and Premier Mohammad Daud to visit the Soviet Union at some future date which was accepted. The newspaper Islah published a supporting editorial on the joint communique on March 7. The newspaper Anis reported on 8 March that all the Kabul and provincial newspapers supported the joint communique in their editorials.

8. Khrushchev sent a message to King Zahir from his airplane thanking him for the reception accorded him in Afghanistan (Anis, 7 March).

9. The newspaper Anis published on 8 March the text of the press interview by Premier Mohammad Daud who said that the negotiations with Khrushchev party were satisfactory and denied rumors that there had been difficulties over agreement on the text of the joint communique issued at the end of the visit. The premier further said that Afghanistan has not considered the question of the recognition of Eastern Germany.

10. The newspaper Anis reported on 15 March that the Soviet Ministry of Culture has granted one-half million rubles for the completion of the auditorium and exhibition grounds in Kabul and that Afghanistan has accepted the gift with gratitude.

11. The cultural counselor of the Soviet embassy in Kabul has presented a number of tapes of the national musics of the various Soviet republics to Radio Kabul (Anis, 20 March).

12. The newspaper Anis discontinued the publication of advertisements for the Soviet export organizations during this month (see JPRS report 3345, 26 May 1960, para 15, page 4). Only a few advertisements appeared for the Polish firm Cekop in the course of the month. In an editorial of Anis on 22 March it was, however, stated that during the past six months the income of the newspaper from advertisements had increased several folds.

13. The Jangalak industrial workshops has sent the following persons to the USSR under a Soviet fellowship to receive training in various mechanical fields: Engineer 'Abd-al-Sabur Afzal, Engineer Mohammad Hasan Nasori, Mohammad Wali, Ahmad Wali Kahzad, Gholam Ahmad, Mohammad Eshaq, Faqir Mohammad, and Heshmat-Allah (Anis, 23 March).

14. On 23 March the newspaper Anis published the text of a speech by Khrushchev in Moscow upon his return from Afghanistan in which he described the reception accorded him in Afghanistan, recalled the development projects in that country and the Soviet aid toward these developments, the ties of friendship between Afghanistan and the USSR, and the role of Afghanistan in preserving the international peace.

15. The newspaper Anis reported on 20 March that the Afghan trade delegation, headed by the director of commerce of the Ministry of Commerce, Yunesi, returned to Kabul after signing trade protocols with Czechoslovakia and Poland. According to these protocols Afghanistan will export wool, cotton, oil seeds, and dried fruits to these countries in exchange for machinery, vehicles and parts, electric equipments, medicine and hospital goods, and woollen goods. At the invitation of the Hungarian government, the delegation visited Hungary before returning to Afghanistan and carried talks concerning the development of trade activities between Hungary and Afghanistan.

16. The ambassador of Communist China in Kabul called on the newly appointed director of the Independent Department of Press on 6 March (Anis, 7 March). The commercial attache of the Chinese embassy called on 'Abd-al-Rashid, the director general of the chambers of commerce in Afghanistan, on 27 March and talked about the list of payments between Afghanistan and Communist China (Anis, 28 March).

17. The deputy minister of petroleum of Rumania, who is visiting Afghanistan (see JPRS report 3345, 26 May 1960, para 16, page 4), was a guest of honor at a party given at Hotel Kabul by the Rumainian Charge d'Affaires on March 6. On the same day the Rumanian Charge d'Affaires invited the cabinet members and other officials to see a film showing the recent developments in Rumania at Park Movie Theater (Anis, 8 March). On 7 March the Afghan Ministry of Mines and Industries gave a party in honor of the Rumanian deputy minister at Hotel Kabul; the Rumanian official left Kabul for home on 14 March (Anis, 9 and 15 March).

Treatment of the International Topics

1. There was a considerable drop in the space devoted by the newspaper Anis to the question of Algeria (from 7% in February to less than one percent in March). The newspapers Islah and Anis, however, published editorials on 8 and 12 March respectively criticizing General De Gaulle for his statements on Algeria.

2. The newspapers published editorials on the disarmament conference in Geneva and expressed hopes that the summit conference would be successful on the question of disarmament as well as on other topics.

3. The newspapers were particularly concerned with the racial developments in South Africa. Foreign Minister Mohammad Na'im issued a statement saying that the attitude of the South African government was against the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the Rights of Man (Anis, 25 March). The attitude of the South African government was also condemned at a meeting of the Press Association in Kabul on 24 March (Anis, 26 March).

4. The newspaper Islah published an editorial on 19 March expressing concern on the visit of Premier Ben Gurion of Israel to the United States and Britain. The article said that Israel is trying to obtain more arms to carry out its expansion plans and to cause further disturbances in the Middle East.

Analysis of a Kabul Paper

1. Following is an analysis of the space devoted to various topics by the semi-official Kabul newspaper Anis during the month of March.

Topic	Percentage of the Total Space Available During the Month
Space devoted to topics from the communist sources or in favor of the communist world	11.10
Space devoted to the problems of Algeria (in favor of "Free Algeria")	.75
Space devoted to the disarmament topics	1.65
Space devoted to the Pakhtunistan issue and Pakistan	2.30
Space devoted to the Arab World, (favorable) and the racial problems in Africa	3.40
Space devoted to other political topics from Western sources or in favor of the Free World	9.80

Topic	Percentage of the Total Space Available During the Month
Space devoted to non-political padding and domestic affairs	71.00
Total	100.00

2. Most of the space devoted to the Communist World was taken by reports and commentaries concerning the visit of Nikita Khrushchev to Afghanistan. The last analysis of the newspaper Anis was reported for the month of November 1959 (see JPRS report 1164-D, 12 February 1960, page 5). The highlights of that report were the Communist World 16%, the Free World 22%, domestic 62%. Most of the space in that report for the Communist World was taken by advertisements by Soviet export firms.

Selected Items

Political

PREMIER TO VISIT WEST GERMANY -- Kabul, Islah, 1 March 60

At the invitation of the Federal German government, Premier Mohammad Daud will pay an official visit to West Germany at a date to be announced later.

KING ZAHIR TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA -- Kabul, Anis, 16 March 60

At the invitation of Marshal Tito, King Zahir will visit Yugoslavia during the month of October. [Anis published an editorial on 17 March recalling the recent developments in the relations between Afghanistan and Yugoslavia and welcoming the visit as further means of strengthening the ties. The editorial also commented favorably on the forthcoming visit of Premier Mohammad Daud to Iran -- see below].

VISIT OF PREMIER DAUD TO IRAN AND DUROPE -- Kabul, Anis, 17-29 March 60

Premier Mohammad Daud left for Teheran by air on 17 March. After four days' stay in Iran, he left Teheran for Europe on 21 March. At a party given by the Iranian premier both sides expressed the desire to strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries and iron-out any differences between them through mutual friendship and understanding. [It is recalled that there is a dispute between Iran and Afghanistan on the use of the waters of the Helmand River]. These views were reflected in the joint communique, the text of which was published by the newspaper Anis on 23 March. Premier Mohammad Daud arrived in Vienna on 22 March and entered a hospital for medical treatment.

AFGHAN AID FOR MOROCCAN VICTIMS -- Kabul, Anis, 21 March 60

The Afghan Saramiyasht [red cross] has awarded $10,000 for the relief of the quake victims in Morocco.

NEW POST OFFICES OPENED -- Kabul, Anis, 6 and 30 March 60

A new post office was opened at Baharak, Badakhshan Province, on 3 March. In the course of the last Afghan year 30 new post offices were opened in Afghanistan under the Five-Year Plan for the development of communications.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON RASHTIYA PUBLISHED -- Kabul, Anis, 23 March 60

Seyyed Qasem Rashtiya, the former director of the Independent Department of Press, has been appointed Afghan minister plenipotentiary and a special representative of King Zahir at Prague. The Czech government has agreed to the appointment.

Rashtiya was born in 1913 in Kabul. He went to school (Esteqlal Lyceum) from 1920 to 1931. In 1931 he started working as a secretary at the press department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The following year he was appointed chief secretary of the foreign relations department of the Ministry of Communications. In 1933 he became a translator for the Literary Association in Kabul and on the following year he became a member of the Association. In 1936 he became an editor for the Kabul Almanac; in 1937 he was appointed the editor of the Kabul Magazine. In 1938 he was elected deputy president of the Literary Association, while taking courses on banking and economics. He took these courses during 1937 and 1938 and obtained a certificate with honor. In 1940 he was appointed chief of publications of the Independent Department of Press, and four years later he became deputy director of the department. From then on he held the following positions: acting director of the Independent Department of Press in 1948, director of the economic plan in 1949, permanent government representative with the UN aid delegation in 1951, director of the government employes cooperative organization in 1952, director of the Bakhtar News Agency in 1954, director of the Independent Department of Press in 1956.

Thus Rashtiya has been in government service for 29 years, 22 years of which were spent in press and related services. From 1946 to 1951 he was honorary secretary of the High Council of Public Relief and member of several charity organizations. He has also been an honorary member of the History Society and the Encyclopedia Society for several years.

In 1944 he visited India at the invitation of the Indian government at the head of a press delegation. The following year he went to Bandung as a representative of Afghanistan and later he represented Afghanistan at United Nations. In 1946 he visited the Soviet Union at the head of a press delegation.

In 1936 Rashtiya received the Ma'aref [education] Medal; in 1938 he received the Stor Medal; and in 1939 he was awarded the Rashtin Gold Medal.

His works include the following: History of Afghanistan in the Nineteenth Century, (two editions published), Jawan-i-Afghan [Afghan Youth], published serially by the newspaper Anis; translation from French of a book on the archaeology of Kotal Kheyr Khana, translation from French of a work on Pakhtu lexicology; and translation from French of a number of novels and fictions.

RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL AND AMNESTY FOR PRISONERS -- Kabul, Anis, 28 and 29 March 60

Afghanistan celebrated the religious festival of Ramadan on 28 March with celebrations and religious services. King Zahir attended a prayer service at Arg Mosque. Messages were received from

abroad, including Voroshilov, Khrushchev, and Gromyko. King Zahir granted amnesty for the remainder of the terms of 472 prisoners in the prisons in Kabul and the provinces.

AID FOR INTERNATIONAL REFUGEES -- Kabul, Anis, 12 March 60

The Ministry of Communications has issued two postage stamps in aid of the international refugees to mark the regugee year. The stamps cost 1.65 and .50 afghanis each respectively. Of the two denominations 220,000 stamps each have been issued; 200,000 stamps of each denomination will be sent to the appropriate international organizations for disposal, and the remaining stamps will be sold in Afghanistan.

ACTIVITIES OF AFGHAN OFFICIALS REPORTED -- Kabul, Anis, 2-27 March; Islah, 16 March 60

The famous Afghan singer, Mohammad Hoseyn Sarahang, returned from Calcutta after attending a music conference there.

Minister of Education Dr. Pupal broadcast a message for the teachers and student on the eve of the opening of the new academic year in Afghanistan after the winter holidays on 4 March in which he urged them to continue with their efforts to promote the educational programs in the country.

The Afghan delegation which left for the international conference in Bangkok on 5 March consisted of the following members: Director of the planning of the Ministry of Plan 'Abd-as-Sattar Shalizi, Director of Industries of the Ministry of Mines and Industries Seyyed Ahmad 'Ali-Shah Ma'sumi, Director of Internal Trade of the Ministry of Commerce Dr. Aman-Allah Rasul.

The deputy minister of health, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim, inspected Nangerhar Major Province and examined the program for combat against small-pox in the province.

The new director of the Independent Department of Press, Dr. Soheyl, inspected the offices of the newspaper Anis and the new studios of Radio Kabul during the month.

The director of press of Qataghan Major Province, Mahammad 'Alam Ghavvas arrived in Kabul for official business on 21 March.

The dean of the School of Economics, Dr. 'Abd-al-Hakim Zia'i, returned to Kabul after a tour of the United States. Later during the month he gave a lecture on the cultural and economic institutions in the United States.

The dean of the School of Engineering and Agriculture, Turiali E'temadi, returned from Manila after attending the regional conference of the UNESCO.

Afghan Ambassador in London Mohammad Kabir Ludin arrived in Kabul on 16 March on official business.

Sardar Salah-ud-Din Ghazi, son of the late Prince Marshal Shah Mahmud Khan Ghazi, was married with Miss Hilly, daughter of Gholam Mohammad Soleyman, deputy minister of foreign affairs, at the Delgosha Palace in the presence of King Zahir and other members of the royal family.

The French Pharmaceutical Academy has sent a silver medal for Dr. Seyyed 'Abd-Allah Seyyed through Kabul University. Seyyed obtained his PhD from the Academy in Paris.

Dr. Hushmand, a malaria expert, returned to Kabul after spending one year in the Philippines studying malaria under a fellowship program awarded by the World Health Organization.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS, REWARDS, AND PUNISHMENTS REPORTED — Kabul, Anis, 2-28 March 60

Through a proposal of the premier, approval of the council of ministers, and concent of King Zahir Mohammad Arsalan Salimi, former deputy director of the Independent Department of Tribes and a Grade 1 officer, has been appointed deputy director of the Independent Department of Press. He was installed at his office at a ceremony on 2 March.

The government of Yugoslavia has agreed to the appointment of General Mohammad 'Aaref, Afghan minister in Prague, as Afghan ambassador to Yugoslavia.

Gol-Mohammad Kuhestani, former director of administration of the Badakhshan Province, has been appointed acting director of personnel at the Independent Department of Press.

The Ministry of Interior has announced the following appointments: Mohammad Karim Farutan, a Grade 4 officer and former governor of Qargha'i Loghman, as acting governor of Meydan; Seyyed Kamal, former director of the Police School, as governor of Kapisa; 'Abd-al-Rahim, former governor of Lugar, as the director general of inspections of the ministry.

Dr. Mahmud Habibi, director of foreign broadcasts of Radio Kabul, has been appointed deputy director of the radio in charge of the professional services. Mohammad Ebrahim Khawkhuzi, director of maintenance of Radio Kabul, has been appointed acting deputy director of the radio in charge of administration. 'Abd-al-Baqi Baghwaniwal, former acting deputy director of Kabul Radio in charge of administration, has been appointed second deputy director of the Bakhtar News Agency.

The preliminary court of civil service attached to the premier's office has acquitted Mohammad Yunes Heyran, former deputy director of income tax department of the Ministry of Finance, of charges concerning his conduct of the case of the commissioners in Girshk Province. The court, however, condemned a clerk, 'Abd-al-Rashid,

to 45 days' imprisonment. The same court also condemned Akhtar Mohammad, a clerk at the Department of Transportation, to one year imprisonment and 4,000 afghanis fine for misconduct.

Gholam Mohammad, a Grade 1 officer, has been appointed director of the technical programs of the Ministry of Public Works.

The Ministry of Education and the Afghan Press Association have agreed to the appointment of Gholam Reza Ma'el as the acting director of the book-publications branch of the Anis Publishing Organization.

Madam Shirin has been appointed deputy director of the girls elementary schools in Kabul.

The Preliminary court of civil service attached to the premier's office has condemend the following officials for embezzlement: Mohammad Ebrahim, treasurer of the Transportation Department, to repay 5,321.37 afghanis and pay a further fine of 10,000 afghanis; Mohammad Ghafur, the chief secretary of the Department of Transportation, expelled from civil service and payment of a fine of 3,000 afghanis; Mohammad Taher and Fakhr-ud-Din, employes of the Department of Transportation, expelled from civil service and fined for 3,000 and 2,000 afghanis respectively. The court also condemned the following employes of the Kabul Silo for embezzlement: Haji Amin, six months imprisonment and 3,000 afghanis fine; Mohammad Hashem, four months imprisonment; Mohammad Anwar, confiscation of one month's pay; Mohammad Jan, confiscation of 20 days' pay. The court also ruled the expulsion of Mohammad Golab, an employe of the Ministry of Finance, and fined him 5,000 afghanis for embezzlement.

Mohammad Ayyub Mumandi, former director of news of the newspaper Anis, has been appointed as a Pakhtu language officer at the Independent Department of Press.

The following appointments were announced by the Ministry of Public Works: Engineer Mohammad Bashir Ludin, an expert in dams and canals, as the acting technical director of dams and canals; Seyyed Aqa, as acting director of constructions; Shah Mahmud, as acting director of mapping; Mohammad Sadeq Samadi, as acting director of research and investigations; Mir Gholam Hoseyn, as acting director of material supplies; Qorban 'Ali Razawi, as acting director of depots.

Kheyr Mohammad, former inspector of the municipal bus service in Kabul, has been fined for 2,000 afghanis and has received an additional imprisonment term of three months and fifteen days for bribery.

Ziya Qari-Zada has been appointed as a literary counselor at the Independent Department of Press.

Engineer Ghows-ud-Din Matin has been appointed acting director of roads of the Ministry of Public Works. 'Abd-al-Hamid Makhmur has been appointed first counselor of the Independent Department of Press. Haji 'Abd-al-Wahed Nafez, deputy director of press of Herat Province, has been appointed deputy director of the School of Arts under the Independent Department of Press. Gholam Shah Sarshar has been appointed acting director of press in Parawan. Gholam Mohey-ud-Din Ayyubi has been appointed acting director of the Afghan Almanac.

DEATH ANNOUNCED -- Kabul, Anis, 16 and 17 March 60

Mirza Mohammad Yaftali, a minister without portfolio, died in Kabul on 15 March. He held various cabinet posts in the past and twice was Afghan ambassador to Moscow. Prince Marshal Shah Wali Khan Ghazi, members of the cabinet, and other officials attended his funeral.

Economic

AFGHAN FRUITS FOR INDONESIA -- Kabul, Islah, 6 March 60

The Indonesian trade representative in Afghanistan held talks recently with the director of the chambers of commerce, 'Abd-al-Rashid, concerning the export of afghan goods, particularly fruits, to Indonesia. 'Abd-al-Rashid stated that samples of Afghan dried fruits were given to the Indonesian official to send home. The fruit product is increasing in the country and Afghanistan is looking for additional markets abroad. Dried fruits constitute 39% of the total Afghan exports and are sent to the USSR, India, Pakistan, China, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Britain, Germany, and other European and Asiatic countries. As a result of the success of the Five-Year Plan, however, more fruits are now available for export. Afghan fruits have always been sought in the world markets. The best Afghan market for fruits is India where these are processed and packed under modern conditions and are re-exported to other world markets. Fruit export is generally supervised by the chamber of commerce and is handled by the Fruit Company in Qandahar. The Ministry of Commerce has established an inspection and standardization organization to help promote the export. Fruits are mainly grown in Qandahar, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kabul, Qataghan, Nangerhar, and Parawan. There are fruit-tree forests on the northern regions of Kabul, Arghandab Valley, and the regions of the Harirud River. Afghanistan gains about 500 million afghanis each year from the sale of fruits.

DEVELOPMENT OF JANGALAK FACTORY NOTED -- Kabul, Islah, 7 March 60

Following the visit of Mr. Khrushchev to the Jangalak Factory [see above] the new machinery for casting iron and for repair of machinery was opened. The correspondent of Islah has obtained the following additional information from an interview with the director of the factory, Dr. 'Abd-al-Malek. The construction of this factory began two years ago with the Soviet aid and help of the Soviet experts and is now near completion. When completed, the factory has the capacity to maintain 1,000 vehicles and melt 770 tons of iron and cast iron [per year]. It can also manufacture certain spare parts, equipment, and building material such as locks, door handles, nails, etc. The main sections of the factory such as the power plant, boilers, workshops, installation of the machinery, ventilation system, machine stand, and cranes have been completed; the remaining work will be completed in the course of the next two or three months. The machinery for melting iron and repair works was purchased with the Soviet aid for 1,131,725 dollars. This does not include transportation and the installation costs which are paid in afghanis and are born by the Afghan government. The buildings for the factory

were constructed by the Textile Company. The installations began with the construction of a carpentry factory and certain elementary workshops. The factory is equipped to service any type of vehicles but at the beginning it will concentrate in servicing vehicles manufactured in the USSR. This is a normal procedure, said the director of the factory, for a service plant to work only on one type of vehicles. For example, the Zendabanan Factory and the Service Company service vehicles manufactured in the United States alone; and there are other factories that service German vehicles.

About 200 workers were employed in the Jangalak factory before the new machinery were opened, now there are about 600 workers employed in the factory. When the factory is completed one thousand or more workers will be employed. The factory is now run under the supervision of six persons who have high school or college education; the number of technical supervisors should, however, increase to 20. The factory has a program for training personnel.

REPORT ON THE GOLBAHAR TEXTILE FACTORY -- Kabul, Islah, 9-13 March 60

The foundation of the Golbahar Textile Factory was laid seven years ago; in the spring of this year the plant will start production on the full scale. The following information were obtained from Engineer 'Abd-al-Malek Nurestani, deputy director of the factory, and Engineer Seyyed Aman-ud-Din Amin, director of the technical affairs of the factory. The factory has four independent sections or plants: one spinning, two weaving, and one dyeing plants. The factory is considered one of the best and fully equipped factories in the world. Each plant has its own warehouses, dressing rooms for workers, and administrative offices. The spinning plant is directed by a German expert who is assisted by his Afghan deputy, Engineer Gholam Mohiy-ud-Din 'Azimi. The spinning plant has 46,400 spindles. When the factory is in full production, the spinning plant will consume one ton cotton per hour and will produce 900 kilograms of yarns; it has 10% waste. At present the spinning plant has 350 workers who work on one shift. When more workers have been trained and there is more demand in the market the plant can work two or three shifts. At present the plant produces about three tons of yarns per one shift of eight hours. Apart from the German director, all the other workers in the plant are Afghan nationals.

The weaving plant is also directed by a German expert with an Afghan assistant, Shir-Mohammad. The plant has 1,200 automatic machine stands and 112 "checker machines." The plant employs about 350 workers. There are also 48 machine stands for training purposes. At present each worker controls six machine stands but this quota is expected to increase to 16 stands per worker. At present the plant produces 10,000 meters of cloth in one shift of eight hours. When the dyeing plant is completed, it is expected that the production will reach 50,000 meters per one shift.

The second weaving plant is for producing heavy duty and decorative material for curtains, furnishing, etc. This plant has its own spinning and dyeing machinery. The plant is entirely run by Afghan experts and workers. It has 3,200 spindles and 110 weaving machine stands. There are 150 workers, working one shift, in the plant. At present the plant produces 700 meters of material per shift; the production is, however, expected to reach one million meters per year. The cloth produced by this plant is generally 1.5 meters wide.

The factory is completely air conditioned. The pumping station consumes 1,200 cubic meters of water per hour from the river.

The dyeing plant is still being mounted. When this plant is completed, the whole factory can start full production. About 90% of the installation work on this plant has been completed. The bleaching section is expected to bleach 160,000 meters of fabrics in two shifts per day. The plant has machinery for printing and block printing of textiles. Each unit can block print 60 meters of cloth per minute. In addition the plant has finishing and other necessary machinery for dyeing, printing, and finishing textiles. The director of this plant is 'Abd-Allah 'Ali. There are a number of foreign experts working in this plant, but gradually it will be run by the Afghans alone.

The total number of workers in all the plants, workshops, power houses, and other accessories of the factory reaches 3,000. At present the minimum wages of a worker in this factory is 10 and the maximum is 14 afghanis.

REPORT ON THE SUGAR FACTORY IN JALALABAD -- Kabul, Islah, 20 March 60

The following reports concerning the sugar factory in Jalalabad were given by the director of the Government Monopolies Department, Mohammad Eshaq 'Osman. The factory has been in production during the past two years. The machinery for the factory were purchased and imported over 300 years ago but they were left idle until two years ago. Afghanistan sought the advice of a Czech expert who proposed plans for the renovation and completion of the machinery about nine years ago. According to the calculations made by the Czech expert at that time, the factory should be able to sell sugar at cost price, or make a small profit perhaps. When the factory was completed, however, the prices had changed and instead of the predicted 100 tons the plant could only use 50 tons of sugar canes per day. Thus the running of the factory was not economical. In the mean time the government had spent 15 million afghanis on the factory. In order to save this capital further plans for expansion were adopted and one million afghanis more were appropriated. These plans increased the consumption of the factory from 50 to 100 tons of sugar cane; but the factory is still running at loss. Furthermore, because

of the age of the machinery and lack of maintenance in the past there have been major break downs in the machinery during the past two years. Now the plant needs 50 to 70 thousand dollars for the purchase of a new boiler and other equipment. It is intended to add certain installation to the factory, such as an ice plant, a workshop, etc, to make up for the loss from the sugar production.

FURTHER INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED -- Kabul, Anis, 7, 10, 14, and 27 March 60

The Nangerhar Company has installed a wood cutting factory and a rice cleaning plant in Jalalabad. The wood factory can cut 18 feet of wood per minute. The company is also planning to install an electric mill in Jalalabad.

The governor of Nangerhar Major Province laid the foundation of the petroleum storage station in Jalalabad on the eastern section of Chashma Rig Shamard Khan. The storage tank will have the capacity of 300,000 gallons of gas. The station will have a workshop, a laboratory, offices, an unloading station, and an automatic weighing machine with a capacity of 25 tons.

The Power Supply Company in Kabul intends to overcome the shortage of electricity in Kabul with the construction of the Naghalu plant which has a capacity of 60,000 kws.

COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED -- Kabul, Anis, 5-31 March; Islah, 19 March 60

The new telephone equipment installed in Kabul works on 220 V with 50 cycles. It can transmit a picture or a written page 20 by 30 centimeters large in 20 minutes to and from anywhere in the world. The system is connected with the channel system radiotelephony. It is connected with Paris, Moscow, and places that have radiotelephony contacts with the Ministry of Communications. Transmission with other centers will be established in due course. The system can only transmit black and white pictures.

Minister of Communications Mohammad Morid gave the following information in an interview with a correspondent of the newspaper Islah. The new channel system communication project under development in Afghanistan is designed to eliminate communication problems in the country. The new system will make it possible to send four telephone and six telegraph messages simultaneously over the same copper line. It was originally planned to extend this system for 1300 kilometers during the First Five-Year Plan. It seems, however, that by the end of the period the system would be extended for 1500 kilometers. The first project is for the following lines: Kabul-Qandahar and Qandahar-Spin Buldak, 600 kilometers; Kabul-Turkham, 300 kilometers; Kabul-Mazar-i-Sharif, 600 kilometers; Qandahar-Girshk, approximately 100 kilometers. The line between Kabul and

Qandahar is completed except for the last 40 kilometers. The Qandahar-Spin Buldak line is completed; the Qandahar-Girshk is under construction; the Kabul- Charikar line has been extended for 25 kilometers. The Kabul-Qandahar channel has two lines, one for international and the other for local communications. Likewise there are two lines in the channel between Kabul and Turkham. The Kabul-Mazar-i-Sharif system has one line for local communications alone. The system is connected with the Eastern and South Eastern Asiatic countries as well as with the European countries. It is also connected with the Iranian system and from there with the Turkish system. Kabul will be the center of the system. Work on the installation of the equipment in Kabul has been completed about 90 percent. It is expected that the channel between Kabul and Qandahar be put into operation in five months. The following costs have been estimated for each project.

Channel	Afghanis
Kabul-Turkham	16,529,416
Qandahar-Herat	29,243,531
Kabul-Qandahar	18,610,000
Kabul-Mazar-i-Sharif	11,740,000

Each one of the above projects requires four years for completion. In the future it is intended to extend the system from Pul-i-Khumri to Baghlan and Qunduz, from Mazar-i-Sharif to Shabarghan and Maimana, and from Maimana to Herat and Farah. Thus the system will form a complete circle arround the country.

The Ministry of Communications has announced that the extension of the channel system line between Qandahar and Spin Buldak will be completed in two weeks.

Engineer Mohammad 'Azim, director general of communications of the Ministry of Communications, gave the following information to a correspondent of the newspaper Anis. There are three radio-telegraph transmitters in Kabul for local communication with Herat, Maimana, Qandahar, Qunduz, Pul-i-Khumri, and Mazar-i-Sharif. There are also two larger transmitters in Kabul for communication with Moscow, Karachi, Paris, Tashkent, and through Paris to America. There are three cable telephone stations one each in Qandahar, Herat, and Charikar. The telephone system in Kabul is fully automatic and has 3,600 numbers which includes official government lines and private numbers. At other towns and centers there are switchboards for aerial telephone lines. There are four wireless telegraph transmitters in Kabul and 15 others in the provinces. The four transmitters in Kabul are used for both local and international transmissions. Direct

communications can be made with Moscow, Karachi, Bombay, London, Tashkent, Peshawar, and Teheran. Through London communications are established with other European countries and through Tanjier with the countries in the American continent. Telegraphic communications are also conducted locally over the telephone lines.

Sociological

MEASURES TO IMPROVE SANITATION IN KABUL -- Kabul, Anis, 16 and 24 March 60

At the recent meeting of the municipal council in Kabul it was decided that during the current Afghan year ten trained nurses be appointed at the ten zones of the city to establish direct contacts with mothers and cooperate with them in housekeeping sanitation. It was also decided that food supplies be examined at the laboratories of the Ministry of Agriculture. The municipality has already made arrangements with the Ministry of Agriculture to prepare vegetables and dairy products and supply them to the public at special shops run by the ministry.

The municipality has also decided to conduct a two-month course for workers in restaurants, hotels, and food shops. The course will show the workers how to serve food and keep their places clean. At present the conditions in restaurants and food shops are completely unsanitary.

ENGLISH BULLETIN TO APPEAR ON HOLIDAYS -- Kabul, Anis, 29 March 60

The Bakhtar News Agency has decided to publish its English bulletin on Fridays and other holidays as well as the regular week days.

MOVEMENT FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN -- Kabul, Anis, 14, 16 28, and 31 March; Islah, 14 March 60

Fifteen women employes work at the Ministry of Communications. Ten of these work on the telephone information switchboard for Kabul and the provinces, four work on the teleprinters, and one woman works at the international communication center. All these women have been employed at one grade higher than normal to encourage women workers. The ministry is conducting two courses for women workers which include teleprinting, the English language, electric appliances, radio and telegraph transmissions, etc.

The School of Literature of Kabul University has moved its library to the Women School so that both men and women students can use the library.

A meeting was held in Kabul on 14 March at which the men and women teachers and students attended and lectures were given on social developments. Hopes were expressed that further such mixed meetings would be held.

Gholam Hasan, an enlightened inhabitant of Khaja Sayyaran Sofla Village in Parawan, has donated some lands for the construction of a girls school in the village.

The construction of a movie theater in the Shahara women park in Kabul has been completed. Work continues on the interior decoration of the movie.

A new girls school was recently opened at Dowlatabad, Mazar-i-Sharif. The inhabitants of the town donated land and equipment for the school.

KABUL BUSES HAZARD TRAFFIC -- Kabul, Anis, 16 March 60

Over ten years ago the traffic in Afghanistan was changed from left hand to right hand driving. Some of the buses, however, still have their exit doors on the wrong side and their passengers have to get out into the middle of the streets. These buses cause traffic accidents and endanger the lives of their passengers. The authorities should take measures to improve the situation.

HEALTH DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED -- Kabul, Anis, 6-26 March 60

In the course of the past two months the health authorities in Herat Major Province have vaccinated 14,408 men, women, and children against small pox in the districts of Pashtun Zarghun and Shindand. At the same time 2,375 houses, 3,721 persons, and 11,001 garments were sprayed with DDT for protection against diseases.

The health authorities in Ghazni Province have vaccinated and sprayed with DDT 1,200 persons in the district of Qarabagh.

The blood bank of Masturat Hospital in Kabul has donated 13,000 cc of blood to the poor in the course of the past 20 days.

The Directorate of Village Development has opened a hospital at the center of Nurestan group of villages.

The directorate of campaign against malaria in Qataghan Major Province has organized five groups to combat malaria in the province. Each group is equipped with a laboratory and the necessary personnel.

Deputy Minister of Health Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim and a number of other health officials have arrived in Jalalabad to inspect the health organizations in Nangerhar Major Province. It was later reported that 128,900 persons were vaccinated against small pox in the province.

A health group has vaccinated 1,265 persons in Maiwand, Qandahar, against small pox.

In the course of the past Afghan year 1,811 patients were admitted to the women hospital in Kabul. Of these 1,429 bore children. The babies born during the year were 646 girls and 783 boys.

The governor of Qataghan laid the foundation of a new hospital in the New Baghlan on 24 March.

OTHER SOCIOLOGICAL EVENTS REPORTED — Kabul, Anis, 14 and 23-28 March; Islah, 14 March 60

The municipality of Kabul has decided to elect gild representatives for carriers and peddlers in Kabul. Members of these professions will further be required to carry licence cards.

Among the 35 graduating candidates of the Women School of Art and Sciences 22 have graduated, seven girls are required to take examinations again, and six have failed.

Among the 29 graduating men and women students of the dental school 28 have been successful.

The Ministry of Finance is conducting a new course for the chief accountants in Kabul and the provinces to acquaint them with modern techniques in budget handling. The course will last for one and one-half months.

The newspaper Anis has decided to issue the paper on Fridays as well. So far the paper was not issued on Fridays and public holidays. The newspaper Story of Maimana has decided to publish daily instead of the previous practice of publishing two issues per week.

The municipality of Kabul has decided to supply water to the city through the water pipes for 24 hours a day during the forthcoming religious holidays of Ramadan.

Military

SECURITY OFFICERS HONORED -- Kabul, Anis, 7 March 60

Lt. Colonel 'Ata-Allah 'Azimi, acting commander of the security forces; Major Ramazan, acting commander of the Gendarme; and Major Bakhtiyar-Gol, a police official, have received certificates of merit for distinguished services.

GENDARME APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCED -- Kabul, Anis, 9 March 60

'Abd-al-Ahmad Malek Khiyal, a graduate of the Law School, has been appointed acting director of the punitive department of the gendarme command in Kabul.

CONSCRIPTION NOTICE PUBLISHED -- Kabul, Anis, 15 March 60

[The newspaper published a notice from the Conscription Department calling on all male Afghan national who are 22 years old and those who are 28 years old but have not had their national service to their two-year military service. Directions for application and registration are given in the notice.]

DEATH NOTED -- Kabul, Anis, 10 March 60

Lt. General Shah 'Abd-al-Hamid died at the age of 68 on 8 March. High government and military officials attended his funeral in Kabul.

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