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BRIEFING PAPER

Education Sector Support Project

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F: PROS

April 4, 1988

I. Introduction:

A. The University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) is the technical assistance contractor for the ESSP. UNO has a long history of interest in and support for the Afghan cause:

- Center for Afghanistan Studies (since 1972)
- Library collection
- Higher Education project at Kabul University (1974-78)
- Atlas of Afghanistan project
- Dari-English dictionary project
- Special courses
- Afghan students

B. The implementing agency for ESSP is the Educational Center for Afghanistan (ECA), an all-Afghan group of educators which is controlled by the Seven Party Alliance. The ECA functions similarly to a Ministry of Education.

C. USAID funds the project. Expenditures and accruals to date amount to about \$1,300,000.

D. Project implementation began in October 1986. By December 1986 we had initiated Literacy Training for Mujahideen in their winter camps, and by September 1987 we had supplied 1326 primary schools inside Afghanistan.

E. ESSP staffing levels are:

UNO's Technical assistance team:

- One full-time and one part-time US citizen
- One senior Afghan-American
- Supporting staff of 9 local personnel

ECA: Staff of 42

II. Program Objectives:

A. To create and maintain primary schools in the liberated areas of Afghanistan by providing textbooks, teacher supplies, student supplies and teachers salaries.

- B. To promote literacy among war-affected Afghan young adults by conducting literacy classes.
- C. To improve teacher competency by conducting short-term training for primary teachers and literacy trainers.

III. Accomplishments to Date:

- A. The Education Council of the Seven Party Alliance has been activated as the principle policy making board for the ECA. The Council is composed of the directors and presidents of the Education Departments of six of the seven parties. It approves all major ECA undertakings.
- B. The ECA has been established and is in operation. Assisted by the UNO team, the ECA has been primarily responsible for the accomplishments listed immediate) below.
- C. Textbooks and instructional materials for grades one through six have been developed and published in both of the national languages of Afghanistan. A total of 360,000 copies of textbooks have been printed. These materials have the full approval and support of the parties.
- D. Primary school kits for grades one through three have been sent to a total of 1326 schools in all 29 provinces of Afghanistan. Each kit, weighing 178 pounds, includes the following items:
 - 30 sets each of first, second and third grade textbooks
 - 3 sets of instructional charts/maps
 - 1 sets of school manuals and forms
 - 3 sets of teacher supplies
 - Miscellaneous supplies for 90 students
- E. The training of 130 District Directors of Education was completed in March 1988. These Directors are now reentering Afghanistan to supervise and train primary school staff in the districts of 20 provinces.
- F. A monitoring/verification system has been designed and implementation has started. Ten monitoring teams with questionnaires and cameras operated inside Afghanistan during August-December 1987 and they verified the arrival of kits and actual operation of 307 the earlier schools. More teams will be trained and sent in during mid-April 1988 to verify both earlier and recently established schools. Teachers salaries have or are being sent to verified schools.
- G. A computer database program has been developed for managing the large amount of data being generated by ESSP activities, particularly in the area of primary schools. The program will be used for planning and budgeting of future activities.
- H. The ECA Quetta Sub-Office was opened in October 1987. A total of 440

primary schools in the nine south-west Provinces of Afghanistan have been supplied from this office.

- I. The first large undertaking of the ESSP was literacy training for Mujahideen in their winter camps near Peshawar. Textbooks (in Dari and Pashto) were written and 529 literacy classes for about 8,000 students were conducted during January - April 1987, shortly after project mobilization.

The literacy program was improved in 1988 with the development of training manuals and materials and the training of some 600 teachers. These teachers are presently training over 12,000 Mujahideen in seven camps.

- J. The Afghan Scholarship Program (ASP) was developed and implemented for an initial 21 students who recently started their studies at UNO. Managed jointly by UNO and The Asia Foundation (as subcontractor), the program is designed to refresh and upgrade previously trained Afghan professionals who have been engaged in Jihad the past several years, thus enabling them to contribute more effectively to the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Another group of 21 students will start their studies next September.

IV. The Future:

The plans outlined below should be expanded as soon as the war is concluded and reconstruction of education in Afghanistan is able to begin. A preliminary plan and first-year budget of post-war reconstruction is presented in a separate paper.

- A. Support of the fourth grades will start immediately in verified schools which are now supported only through the third grade. Fifth and sixth grade classes will be supported where appropriate. During 1988 the total number of schools supported by ECA will rise to about 1,800.
- B. Administrative and teacher training will begin soon for 88 District Directors of Education who will serve in the nine southeastern provinces.
- C. In order to further upgrade the quality of primary education, additional teacher training programs will be planned and implemented.
- D. Monitoring will be further improved.
- E. Literacy training of Mujahideen will be further improved and possibly extended to the villages of Afghanistan. The introduction of "box libraries" in villages having ECA supported schools is presently under consideration.