

Record of Conversation Between I.V. Arkhipov, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Taraki (February 28, 1979)

Arkhipov noted the complexity of the tasks related to the creation in Afghanistan of a new society which would be free from exploitation and feudal vestiges.⁽²⁾

"The Afghan revolution, by the power of its example, will have a positive influence on the conduct of the national liberation and anti-imperialist struggle." He speaks about the Soviet experience, from which the Afghans might borrow "as from a treasure house verified by time."

Arkhipov reports the decision of the Soviet government to provide supplemental assistance to Afghanistan during the period of the first five-year plan (1979-84).

The USSR undertakes the obligation, under the terms of the general contract, to build an ore-enriching plant on the basis of the copper deposit in Ainak. To pay for the work, Afghanistan will receive a credit of 200 million rubles at 2% interest with copper deliveries to end after 12 years.

The USSR will provide technical assistance in the construction of an oil-refining factory with a capacity of 500,000 tons per year, and also in the erection of electricity transmission lines for the supply to Afghanistan of electricity from the USSR.

The USSR will provide assistance in the reconstruction of the Kabul airport, and in the construction of six airfields as well.

For these purposes Afghanistan will receive credit of 70 million rubles at 2% for a 15^{1/2}-year term.

For the five year plan the USSR will also present to Afghanistan grant assistance of 10 million rubles and annual deliveries of consumer goods. Regarding this, part of the money made from selling them will go to the construction of objects of Soviet-Afghan cooperation.

The Soviet side is also prepared to present a supplemental credit of 14 million rubles on the same terms.

Taking into account the 24 million in unused credits which were given earlier, the overall sum of credits for consumer goods and grant assistance comes to 88 million rubles for the five year plan.

According to the current agreement technical assistance by the USSR is envisioned on 17 objects. Taking into account the unused credits the overall cost of these jobs will come to 680 million rubles for the five year plan.

Taraki asks for the construction of certain objects to be put off so as to direct part of the reserved funds to Afghanistan's defense needs, and also requested that the payments for the credits and interest be postponed or about the provision of supplemental credits, specially for the requirements of the Ministry of Defense. } 2

Based on research notes taken on materials at the Center for the Preservation of Contemporary Documentation (Moscow), Fond 5, Opis 76, File 1044, Pages 17-27.