

Re-typed November 2011

MEMORANDUM

August 10, 1971

TO: The Files

FROM: Albert R. Baron, Assistant Director, HAVR

SUBJECT: Land Settlement in the Helmand Valley

Further to my memorandum of January 23, 1973, a discussion with Mr. Aziz Gul, Head of HAVA's Planning and Statistics, provided the following information.

1. The King has now signed the law approved in draft by the cabinet last fall to allow HAVA to sell 60% of Government-owned land and settle 40% of it.
2. During the period 1331-1349 (1951-1969), a total of 4,129 families were settled on 108,600 jiribs of land. Records show 541 families vacated their land (15,842 jiribs), with the bulk of vacated land in Nad-i-Ali (363 families and 11,472 jiribs). This information is summarized in HAVA's Five Year Plan, and in the attached table. The Five Year Plan calls for the settlement of about 400 families in 1350 and 400 families in each subsequent year.
3. In the last three years (1347, 1348, 1349), a total of 1,026 families have been settled:
  - 240 in Khan Hashin
  - 193 on Nad-i-Ali out-of-project land
  - 196 on Marja out-of-project land
  - 241 in Darwishan
  - 156 other (Marja, Shamalan, Girishk, Tarnak)
  - 1,026
4. Experience with Mexipak and fertilizer have suggested to HAVA officials that lands previously classified as unsuited for cultivation should be classified as arable. Aziz Gul noted as an example Block 1b1 in Marja which in 1965 was classified good only for woodlot and forage use. Last year's farmers in this Block obtained yields of 50 bushels of wheat per acre. Governor Reza has also made this point with respect to a block of land in the Zarest area of the Shamalan.
5. Plans in the Nad-i-Ali are to settle another 150 families.
6. In the Marja, plans call for:
  - a. settlement or sale of land in the Sistani (West Marja) area to 200 families, in addition to the 150 families there now.
  - b. the sale of 5,000 jiribs in Block 9,

- c. the sale of land to up to 510 families waiting for land in Block 11.
7. There are now 1,200 families in the Valley waiting to be settled. Current plans are to settle them in the Marja (Block 11 and Sistani), in Khan Nashin and in out-of-project lands in Marja and Nad-i-Ali.
8. Of land previously settled there are 15,842 jiribs available for sale or settlement. This is understood for the most part to be included in the 30,000 jiribs of Government owned land available for sale or settlement cited by Zia in the January 23 memorandum, and does not take into account some 35,000 jiribs of Government land said to be available in the Darwishan once drainage is provided.
9. HAVA is planning to sell about 75,000 jiribs of uncultivated lands bordering the river from Kajaki down to Khan Nashin. These are lands overgrown in tamarisk and underbrush. Some 21 tribes from the Helmand Valley are interested. HAVA plans to sell the land for one-fourth of the price of any neighboring cultivated land, to provide a 2-3 year grace period and to permit payment over a four year period.

Attachment (Table)

cc. B. Harvey  
V. Skiles  
C. Uyehara/Husick  
D. Cohn  
A. Schifferdecker  
J. Shankland  
R. Miller/Howard  
C&R (2)

NUMBER OF FAMILIES SETTLED

<u>Area</u>	<u>1331-1346</u> <u>1951-1968</u>	<u>1347</u> <u>1969</u>	<u>1348</u> <u>1970</u>	<u>1349</u> <u>1971</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>1331-1349</u>		
						<u>Jiribs</u> <u>Settled</u>	<u>Families</u> <u>Vacated</u>	<u>Jiribs</u> <u>Vacated</u>
<u>Nad-i-Ali</u>	1,416	-	-	-	1,416	44,919	363	11,472
<u>Nad-i-Ali</u> <u>Out of Project</u>	111	27	99	67	324	8,707	59	1,466
<u>Marja</u>	973	2	3	56	1,034	25,018	97	2,466
<u>Marja</u> <u>Out of Project</u>	58	134	30	32	254	7,538	1	28
<u>Shamalan</u>	358	6	10	16	390	7,440	12	200
<u>Girishk</u>	86	11	30	6	133	3,205	-	-
<u>Darwishan</u>	72	95	53	93	313	6,293	6	120
<u>Tarnak</u>	9	-	2	14	25	4,800	-	-
<u>Khan Nashin</u>	-	147	5	88	240	680	3	90
<u>Totals</u>	3,103	422	232	372	4,129	108,600*	541	15,842*

\*Net jeribs settled 1349, 108,600 – 15,842 = 92,758

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Charles Husick, (A) AD/DP

DATE: August 19, 1971

FROM : *RBS*  
Richard B. Scott

SUBJECT: Baron's Memo on Land Settlement in the Helmand Valley,  
August 10, 1971

1. As experience in Nad-i-Ali has indicated in the past, planners should carefully evaluate the characteristics of population being settled or re-settled. A study of these social characteristics will suggest what sorts of problems may be expected to occur and what sorts of remedial action might be taken to counteract these problems. A study of the social characteristics of those that have in some way failed to adjust and moved on would further add to our knowledge and, hopefully, adjust our planning to the point where we will not repeat our mistakes. When I say "we" I refer to the joint U.S.-Afghan effort.
2. Apparently there are some statistics being collected by the bureau associated with the settlement program. The quality, kind and uses made of this data is unknown to me aside from the basic numbers recorded in the above referenced memo. What are the possibilities of tapping this source of data and possibly making some follow-up surveys on the ground to see in more detail what is happening? After all, successful re-settlement of people was probably one of the original goals of our involvement in the Helmand Valley.

AD/DP:RBScott:mm

