

TO: Mr. David Levintow, AD/HAVR

Date: Jan 6, 1973

FROM: Richard B. Scott, DP

SUBJECT: Payment for Crop Damage and Right-of-way in the Shamalan

This memo is in response to your request for an outline of payment history on damages incurred through the construction of the Shamalan canal; that is payments made to farmers by HAVA/HACU for crop damage, destruction of property (eg, trees, vines and buildings) and for canal right-of-way. The information is not exactly up to date. A few hours checking in the field could make it complete. The past pattern of payment as compared with what USAID and the farmers had been told about payment, however, suggests that this information may still be current.

In response to the governor's recent statements on the damages payment situation in the Shamalan, I will outline the situation as it has been related to me by various villager informants who have been directly involved in the events. Through November 1972 I have kept in continuous pursuit of any information relating to such payment, including contacting all landholders previously surveyed in the North Shamalan, driving down the canal line several times asking all farmers found along the way, and a series of cooperative, knowledgeable farmers (including the old respected blind landowner who was acting as a farmer representative vis-a-vis the Land Committee on the payments issue). I made numerous requests of Mr. Samuals of HACU between September and November 1972 for a list of payments made, with no success.

As noted in previous memos, in September 1971, Muhammadin, owner of plot 202 was paid about 20,000 Af's. for a partially lost corn crop at the time the by-pass was dug. Everyone agrees that this was more than ample to cover damages. It was partly a payment for cooperating with the project. He has received nothing for right-of-way lost to the canal nor has he received anything for a number of vines destroyed when the canal cut the edge of a rather poor vineyard.

Owner, or the son of the owner who is an employee of HACU, of plot 123-24 received payment (amount unknown) for damages as the canal passed through his orchard-vineyard. A third owner, about 150 yards further south along the canal line (a housing site) received, I was told, payment for a series of mulberry trees on the right-of-way.

Besides these three men I have found no other example of payment for destroyed property or crops although in some cases the edges of fields cut by the canal have been out of production for more than a year. Compensation has not been received for right-of-way or crops lost.

There was considerable discussion of the plight of a man in the Aynak - Bolan area who had his house-site on the direct line of the canal. The arrangements for payment made with him and with the Said village of Aynak (just recently faced as an issue of dividing a village with the canal which sits half on the desert escarpment and half on the fields' edges) are unknown.

During the fall of 1972 there were statements to the effect that payment checks were ready for distribution awaiting the return of the Governor (September), and then the end of Id in October. Through all farmer meetings

promises were given that payment was imminent. Dates for scheduled payment were given by HAVA but field checks after these dates consistently indicated non-payment. In a 2 November Training and Coordination Meeting of BuRec, HAVA, and HACU, Mr. Niyamatti noted that there was no chance of clearing titles for the 150 Acre Demonstration Area in the following 4 months. Clearing titles is a function of the Land Committee and the special Land Claims Court, and is a prerequisite to any payment. When asked directly how many titles had been cleared to date, the reply was none.

Any further claims that payments are being made should be met with a request for lists of payees, amounts paid and for what. These lists could then be used as a basis for follow-up interviews on farmers' views of the payment process and their satisfaction with the amounts. The follow-up interviews could serve two functions: (1) a check on what we have been told, (2) a positive psychological input with the farmers. The second needs some explanation. Numerous studies have shown the positive effects on attitudes in public information/relations activities coming simply from a public awareness of concern on the part of change agents. Of course, actual payment would go much further in developing positive relations, if the details have not already soured the situation beyond repair.

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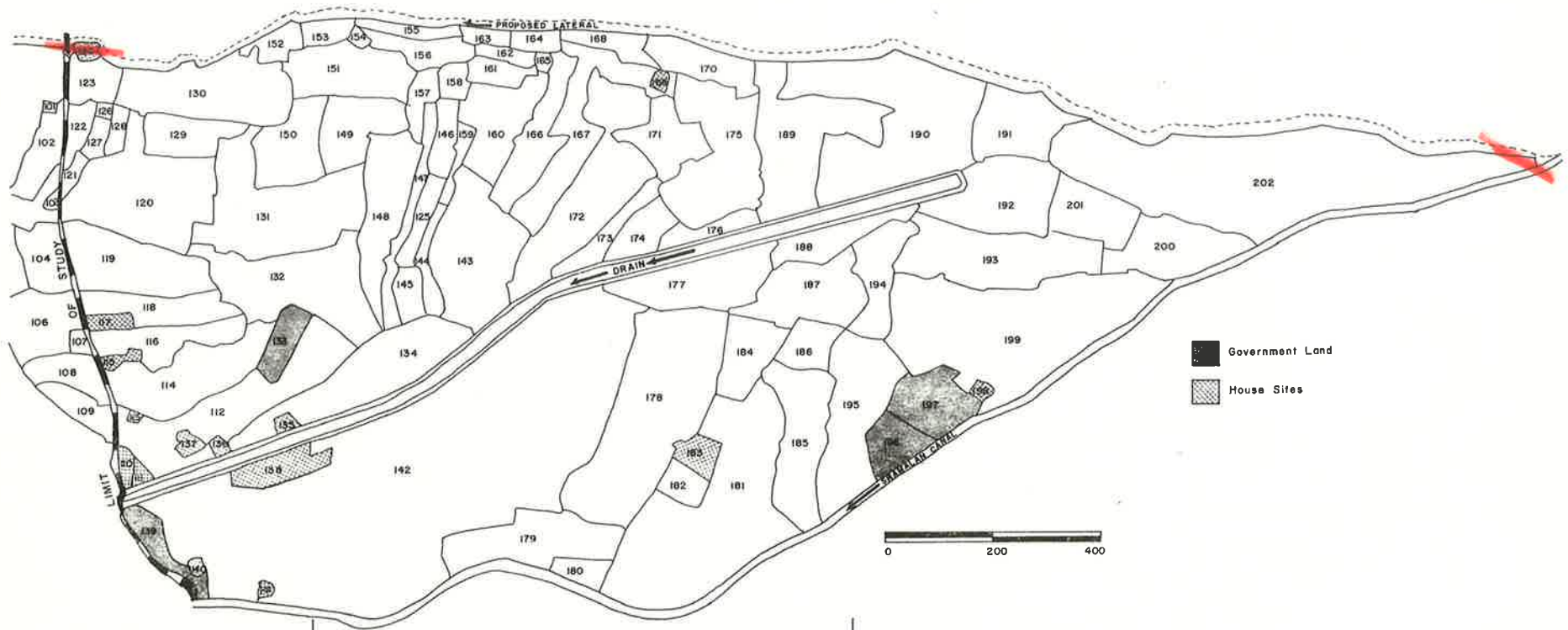
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MAP No. I

CADASTRAL MAP

NORTH SHAMALAN



- Government Land
- House Sites

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