

(Re-typed June 2012. Original in RBScott files.)

(Internal/informal USAID/W communication.)

March 14 1973

Dear Mike,

While you are in Kabul please speak to Vince Brown about the memo from Richard Scott to David Levintow dated November 8, 1972, which was an enclosure to the letter Vince sent Don MacDonald on December 13, 1972. The memo is on present village attitudes in the North Shamalan area of the Helmand Valley.

Scott found that the farmers in the North Shamalan do not understand or want the land leveling program associated with the HAVA/HACU Equipment Loan. Based on this finding Scott concluded that HAVA:

1. Never tried to inform the farmers about the project,
2. Never seriously planned to implement the land development aspects of the project.

We think that the finding is probably correct but that the conclusion does not necessarily follow and is open to question. It seems to us more likely that HAVA was inept in its effort to explain the purpose and benefits of land leveling to the farmers.

But we are a long way from the Helmand. Those closer to it are better able to evaluate Scott's memo. Vince may want to do it himself or to ask Dave Levintow to do it. We are concerned about the record and think that Scott's memo, especially his conclusion, should not stand unchallenged.

Have a good trip. All the best,

Bill