

**RICHARD B. SCOTT
2598 BIG THOMPSON
DRAKE CO 80515**

31 OCTOBER 98

DEAR JIM,

GREETINGS FROM COLORADO. RECEIVED YOUR FAX THE OTHER DAY AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE INFORMATION ON PRODUCTION. ON OUR VISIT TO SHAMALAN IN MAY, IT APPEARED THAT PLANTED FIELDS HAD INCREASED FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR BUT THIS MAY NOT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT PRODUCTION, AS YOU NOTED. I HAVE BEEN OUT OF IT FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS SO I HAVE NOT SAT DOWN AND COMPARED THE PAST FEW YEARS OF STATISTICS. BUT I SUSPECT THAT THE ILLEGAL EXTENSION SERVICE (WHATEVER IT MIGHT BE) HAS BEEN BUSY WITH EXPANSION OF CROPPING OF POPPY. I WILL GET FROM JAWED THIS YEARS COTTON PRODUCTION FIGURES. IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, COTTON PRODUCTION HAS ALSO GRADUALLY BEEN EXPANDING BUT NOT LIKE POPPY. I WILL LOOK IT UP.

ON HAFO AND THE CONTRACTING PROBLEM, AS YOU KNOW, I THINK THAT AS MANY NGOS AS HAVE THE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN HELMAND REHABILITATION. JUST ONE, MCI, DOES NOT HAVE ALL THE CAPABILITIES NEEDED. AND POLITICALLY, THE AFGHAN NGOS SOMEHOW NEED TO BE INVOLVED, IF THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE. VERY LIKELY IN THE FUTURE, SOME OF THESE PEOPLE WILL BE IN KEY POSITIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT. THE AFGHAN NGOS HAVE AN ORGANIZATION AND I AM SURE THERE IS SOME GRUMBLING. I THINK BOTH YOU AND THE U.N. HAVE THE SAME POLICY AND THE AFGHANS HAVE TO WORK WITH SUB-CONTRACTING. I UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM WITH CONTRACTING WITH THE AFGHAN NGOS FROM THE TIME USAID WAS INVOLVED WITH THE CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS. LIMITED FIELD SUPERVISION AND CHECKS RESULTED IN MIS-USE OF FUNDS. BUT A U.S. NGO WITH VIRTUALLY ALL FIELD STAFF BEING AFGHAN WITH LIMITED FIELD SUPERVISION CAN BE EXPECTED TO HAVE SIMILAR RESULTS. THE IDEA OF HAVING A U.S. CITIZEN STATIONED IN KANDAHAR WAS A GOOD ONE, ESPECIALLY A FIELD ORIENTED ONE.

WOULD THERE BE A POSSIBILITY OF WORKING WITH JAWED IF I WERE A U.S. NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION? MY BROTHER, A LAWYER IN DALLAS, SAYS THAT IT WOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER TO ESTABLISH THAT STATUS. I COULD BE IN THE FIELD WITH HAFO, AS PROPOSED, WORKING CLOSELY WITH THEM ON ORGANIZATION AND RECORD KEEPING. THEY WOULD HAVE THE SKILLS AND RECEIVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.

MORE AFGHAN ORGANIZATIONS NEED TO BE INVOLVED, I THINK. JAWED/HAFO WOULD BE A GOOD START. HE IS A CIVIL ENGINEER WITH A PROVEN TRACK RECORD FOR EFFECTIVE, HONEST WORK, FROM A GIRISHK VILLAGE AND A SAYED. HE HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE TALIBAN.

UNFORTUNATE ABOUT THE CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL SITUATION. I REALLY DOUBT THAT THE ROCKETS ON THE CAMPS WERE A GOOD IDEA OR THAT THE REASONS FOR THEM WERE WELL THOUGHT OUT. JAWED AND I, HALF IN JOKE, DISCUSSED APPROACHING THE ARAB FOR POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR HELMAND REHABILITATION. WE DIDN'T BUT I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SURPRISED IF HE WOULD HAVE AGREED. APPARENTLY HE DOES THINGS LIKE THAT, TOO.

STATE MUST BE CAREFUL IN GIVING WARNINGS TO U.S. NATIONALS TRAVELING IN AFGHANISTAN, AGREED. BUT I SUSPECT THAT WORK IN HELMAND WOULD BE SAFE. PROBABLY SAFER THAN WALKING AROUND IN THE OLD CITY OF PESHAWAR OR KARACHI, ESPECIALLY THE LAST WHERE THERE ARE A LOT OF APPARENT CRAZIES. ACCORDING TO MY CONTACTS BOTH IN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANS, THINGS ARE BACK TO NORMAL, AND THE TALIBAN WANT ALL THE HELP THEY CAN GET TO REHABILITATE HELMAND. I DON'T THINK THEY WOULD LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO A FOREIGNER. BUT I WOULD NOT WANT TO DRIVE AROUND IN KANDAHAR OR LASHKAR GAH WITH A FLAG WAVING. I SUSPECT THE U.N. MILITARY GUY THAT GOT SHOT IN KABUL WAS NOT VERY DISCRETE. VERY LOW PROFILE IS THE WAY.

ON THE CROP SUBSTITUTION ASPECTS OF THE ACTIVITIES IN UPPER HELMAND, THE CROP SHOULD BE COTTON. AND A MOVE SHOULD BE MADE (BY THE BRITS) TO GET THE GIRISHK COTTON GIN FUNCTIONING. THE BRITS BUILT THAT COTTON GIN BECAUSE COTTON AS A CROP WAS EXPANDING RAPIDLY INTO UPPER HELMAND AND IT WAS TOO FAR/EXPENSIVE FOR THE FARMERS TO MOVE IT TO LASHKAR GAH FOR PROCESSING. AND THE LASH GIN COULD NOT PROCESS THE EXPANDING PRODUCTION IN A TIMELY MANNER. COTTON IS A CASH CROP THAT EVERYONE KNOWS. THE LASH GIN ALSO NEEDS WORK/SPARE PARTS. THE BRITS NEED TO BRING IN A COUPLE OF TECHNICIANS AND ,LATER, SPARE PARTS. BUT KEEP IN MIND THAT THERE ARE A COUPLE OF LONG TERM AND BIG OPIUM PRODUCERS IN SANGIN AND UPPER HELMAND THAT ARE RICHER THAN BILL GATES. ONE JUST BUILT A GAS STATION AND FOOD PLACE BETWEEN GIRISHK AND THE LASH TURN OFF ON THE KANDAHAR HIGHWAY. HE/THEY WOULD HAVE A LOT OF INFLUENCE ON THE ACTIVITIES AND SUCCESS AND FAILURE OF THE MCI PROJECT IN THEIR AREAS. YOU CAN BE SURE THAT IF MCI IS ALLOWED TO WORK IN THEIR REGION, THEIR ACTIVITIES

WILL NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE KEY OPIUM PRODUCTION. THEY WOULD OF COURSE ACCEPT FREE SEED AND FERTILIZER. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I WOULD WATCH THE RESULTS OF THE FUNDING IN THIS UPPER REGION VERY CAREFULLY. I WOULD RE-FOCUS ON CENTRAL HELMAND WHERE WE KNOW THE POTENTIAL FOR POSITIVE RESULTS ARE GREATER , WHERE THE BULK OF THE POPPY IS BEING GROWN WITH EXPANDING PRODUCTION. AS YOU EXPERIENCED, THE PEOPLE KNOW WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT AND ARE WILLING TO CHANGE, WITH HELP. THE TALIBAN HAVE REQUESTED THE SAME SORT OF HELP BEFORE PRESSURING FOR POPPY REDUCTION. POLITICALLY, THIS IS A MUST FOR THEM.

THE REPLACEMENT CASH CROP IS COTTON. ACTIVITIES IN WHEAT, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD HAVE LIMITED IF ANY EFFECT ON REGIONAL POPPY.

I HAVE NOT HAD ANY CONTACT WITH ANGUS SINCE HE RETURNED FROM HOME LEAVE ALTHOUGH I SENT HIM AN E-MAIL ABOUT THE TIME I SENT YOUR FAX. WHAT ARE THEY UP TO? THERE IS SO MUCH WORK TO BE DONE IN HELMAND THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DIVIDE IT UP...A DIVISION OF LABOR. PERHAPS THEY COULD FUND SOME SHORT TERM, TOP OF THE LINE ENGINEERING HELP IN SUPPORT OF MCI. MY GUESS IS THAT THE MCI AFGHANS MIGHT APPRECIATE THAT. I MAY BE WRONG BUT I STILL DOUBT THAT MCI HAS THE NECESSARY ENGINEERING EXPERTISE TO PUT THE BOGHRA AND ITS STRUCTURES BACK IN AS-DESIGNED CONDITION. THE SKILLS NECESSARY FOR SOME OF THE REPAIRS SHOULD BE EQUAL TO THE SKILLS THAT DESIGNED AND BUILT THE STRUCTURES. SOME OF THE REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE IS RELATIVELY SIMPLE. BUT THE BLOWN SIPHON, FOR EXAMPLE, IS AN EXAMPLE OF A RELATIVELY SIMPLE PROCEDURE OF CLEANING GONE WRONG.

ON THE BLOWN SIPHON BETWEEN MARJA AND NAD-I-ALI, WHEN THE BOGHRA IS DRY FOR WORK THIS WINTER, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR MCI TO PUMP OUT THE SIPHON, EXAMINE AND IF POSSIBLE, PHOTOGRAPH IN DETAIL THE DAMAGE. THE REPAIRS MAY BE SIMPLE OR COMPLEX DEPENDING ON WHAT THEY FIND BUT IT NEEDS TO BE EXAMINED.

HOPEFULLY MCI IS PLANNING THE USE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF HAND LABORERS ON THE BOGHRA THIS WORK SEASON, AT LEAST DOWN IN THE AREA WHERE IT WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE. MACHINES ARE GOOD AND QUICK FOR CLEANING, WHEN YOU CAN KEEP THEM RUNNING, IN AREAS WHERE HAND LABOR WOULD HAVE TO HANDLE THE SPOILS TOO MANY TIMES. BUT THE USE OF A LOT OF HAND LABOR, WHERE FEASIBLE, WOULD MAKE THE REGIONAL LABOR FORCE HAPPY AND RESPOND TO THE TALIBAN REQUESTS RELATING TO REDUCING

POPPY...MORE MONEY IN THE HANDS OF THE LOCAL POPULATION. THE PROBLEM WITH A LARGE LABOR FORCE IS HOW TO MANAGE THEM EFFECTIVELY.

I HAVE NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO COME TO PAKISTAN. I AM SNOWED UNDER UNTIL THE MIDDLE OR LATE NOVEMBER. IF I DO COME, I WOULD PLAN TO BE THERE FOR THE WORK SEASON IN HELMAND AND I WOULD PLAN TO GO TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING AND HOW. THE UNIV. OF NEBRASKA TECH TRAINING SCHOOL IN KANDAHAR, IN THE OLD USAID COMPOUND, WHICH WAS BEING FUNDED BY UNOCAL, IS CLOSING DOWN WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH. I GUESS THEY GAVE UP ON THAT ROUTE FOR THE PIPE LINE. ENGINEER SIDIQ, ONE OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORS TO UNOCAL IS BACK IN THE U.S. I THINK I MENTIONED HIM IN THE PAST. I MAY BE GOING OVER TO UNIV. OF NEB. IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR DISCUSSIONS AND A SLIDE PRESENTATION ON HELMAND. I AM TRYING TO GET NEBRASKA AND JAWED TOGETHER SINCE THEY HAVE OVERLAPPING INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES WITH TECH SCHOOLS IN KANDAHAR. I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN YOUR COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE, AND SUGGESTIONS. STILL HAVE NOT YET CONTACTED UNIV OF WY. MORE LATER. BEST WISHES.

DICK SCOTT

TEL/FAX: 970-586-8485
(ALT FAX) 970-586-6685

e-mail: bmt@frij.com