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Dedication Embassy of the United States of America, Kabul, Afghanistan

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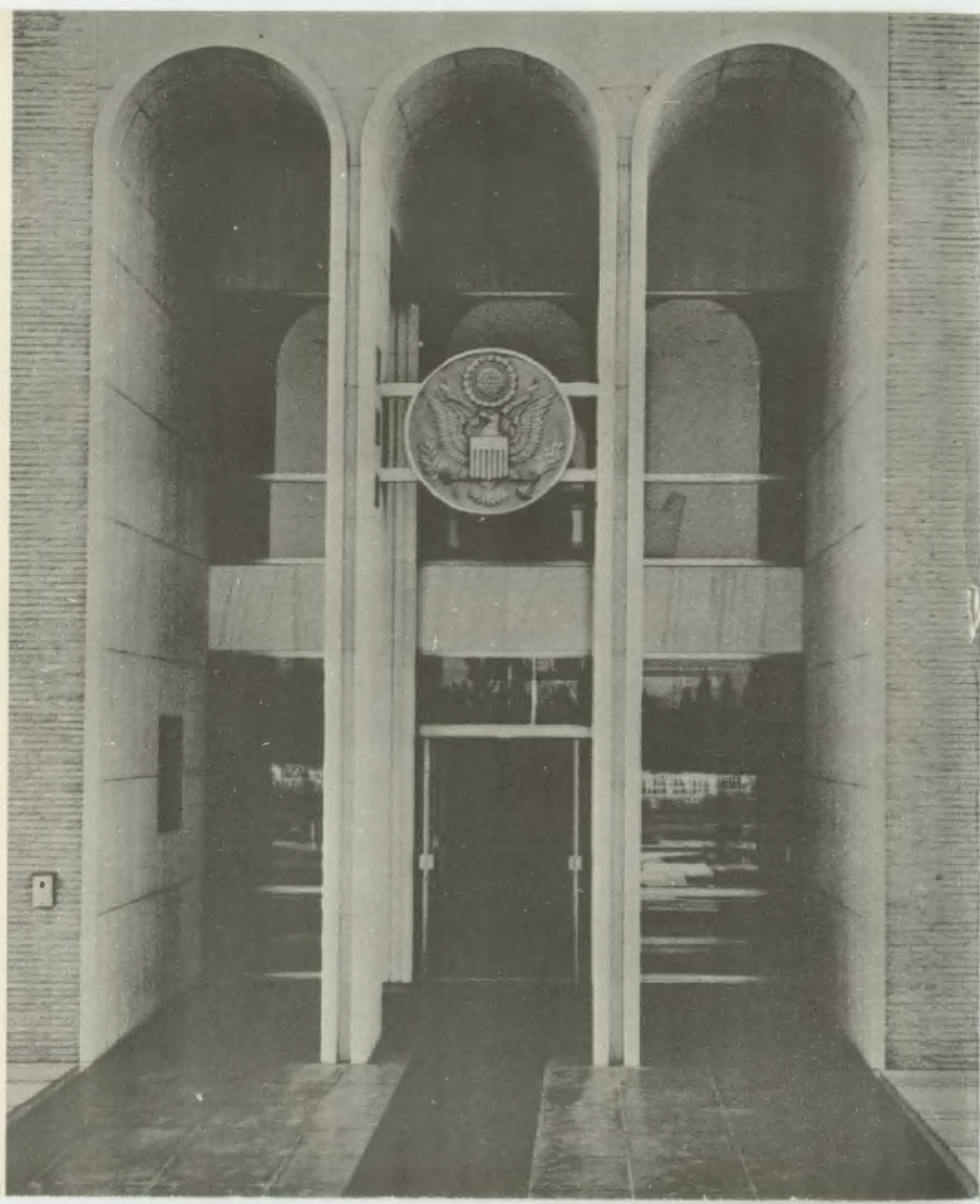


Dedication

Embassy of the United States of America

Kabul, Afghanistan

July 4, 1967



A new home...

Of select gray Salang marble set off by tasteful landscaping, the new Embassy of the United States in Kabul serves to fulfill the growing needs of the American mission in Afghanistan as well as to add another attractive building to an expanding city.

The two-story building--modern classic in style--is centered on a six-acre tract on Bebe Mahro Road on Kabul's northern outskirts. Its 6,000 square feet housing 90 offices cost \$1,800,000.

Construction was an expression of international cooperation: designed by an American firm, the Ballinger Company of Philadelphia, constructed by a German firm, Hochtief A.G., it was actually built by Afghans, using products of Afghanistan. The outside plantings were donated by the King of Afghanistan. The construction supervisor was Lorant B. Berz, of the U.S. Department of State's foreign buildings division.

The focal point of the building's entrance, shown on the opposite page, is the Great Seal of the United States.

Planned for the future on the eight-acre site just to the north are apartments for staff employees, a utility and storage building, and a recreation area with swimming pool and tennis courts.

Ground was broken for the new building July 15, 1964; the cornerstone was laid July 4, 1965, by the then Ambassador John M. Steeves; dedication July 4, 1967 was by the present Ambassador, Robert G. Neumann.

The new American Embassy building expresses the confidence that the friendly relations that exist today between the United States and Afghanistan will continue to exist tomorrow, and far into the future.



and

an old dream

The dedication of the new Embassy offices marks the realization of an old dream, a dream that began in 1935. It was then that relations were first established between the two countries and that the American Minister resident in Tehran was accredited to the Court of Kabul.

In the more than 30 years since then the dream has materialized: from a small legation housed in offices on the banks of the Kabul River to a full Embassy headquartered in a new \$1,800,000 structure and an official American family of more than 1,000 persons.

Many distinguished Americans have served as ambassadors to Afghanistan, including John M. Steeves, the ambassador under whose supervision the new Embassy was built. Ambassador Steeves is shown on the opposite page on the left with his successor, Robert G. Neumann, the present Ambassador.

Ambassador Neumann, as the personal representative in Afghanistan of the President of the United States and as head of the official American community, maintains offices on the second floor of the Embassy building.

As the center of American operations, the new building also houses the offices of the Deputy Chief of Mission, the Political, Economic, Administrative and Consular Sections of the Embassy, and the Defense Attache and Air Attache. In addition, the Director of the Agency for International Development and the Public Affairs Officer maintain offices in the new building.

7,000 miles apart...

Although 7,000 miles separate Afghanistan from the United States, the two nations are close together in ideals and aspirations.

These ties that bind closely the two nations were voiced March 28, 1967 at the White House in Washington when President Johnson, shown on the right on the opposite page, greeted the Prime Minister of Afghanistan, His Excellency Mohammad Hashim Maiwandwal.

President Johnson said:

"...We live on opposite sides of the globe, yet we have much in common:

"your land - like ours - has a strong tradition of freedom and independence;

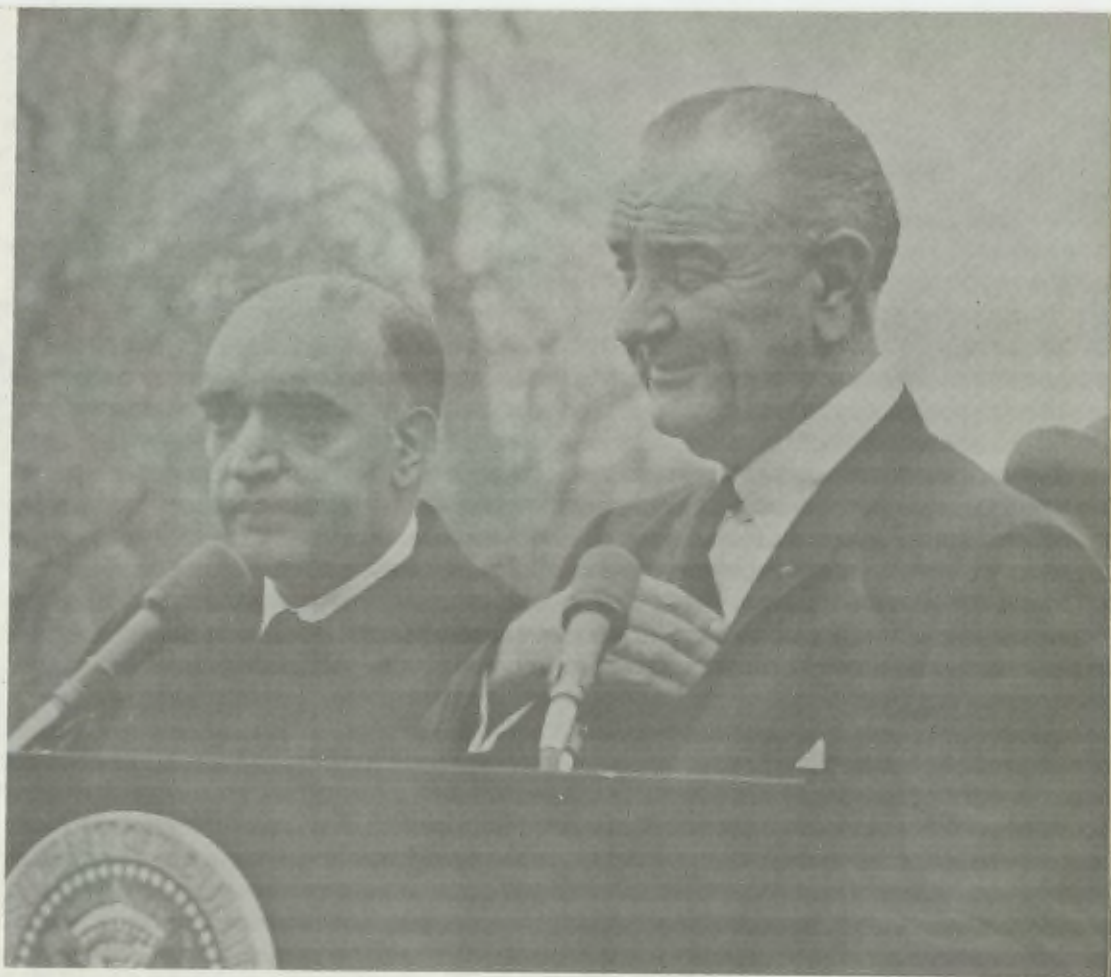
"your people - like ours - cherish diversity while they seek unity in mutual respect and justice;

"you - like us - are experimenters in the art of government and social reform,

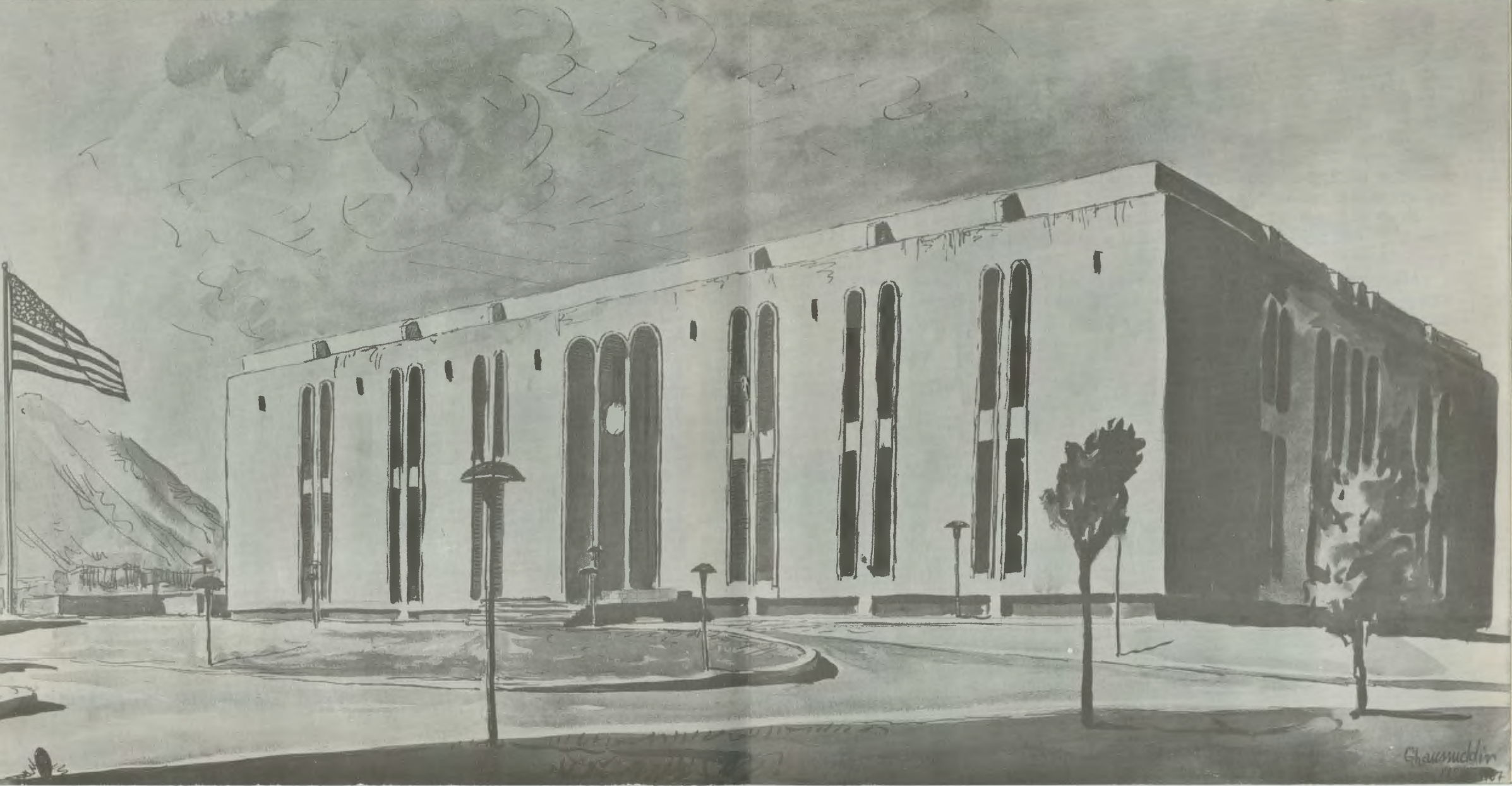
"and we share a common dedication to peace, and to the ideal of a world community based on freedom."

Prime Minister Maiwandwal replied:

"Although a considerable geographic distance separates our two countries, our common belief and devotion to liberty and respect for the inherent dignity of man have bridged this distance..."



yet working together



A time to learn...

"Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe," H. G. Wells once wrote. For years now the United States and Afghanistan have been cooperating to win that race.

Ever since diplomatic relations were established between the two nations, there has been a steady stream of person-to-person exchange.

Afghans at many levels of educational achievement have traveled to the United States to pursue their learning. Today, more than 300 of them are studying in U. S. colleges, secondary schools and technical institutes, many on grants provided by the American government.

And as Afghans are studying in the United States and sharing their knowledge and culture, Americans, too, are coming to Afghanistan in increasing numbers--both to study and to teach.

In addition to learning through education, there is also communication through cultural exchange.

Inside the new Embassy building hang many pieces of art representing works by both American and Afghan artists. Most of the American art was provided through the State Department's Art in the Embassies program which makes available to American embassies and the residences of American ambassadors representative collections of the works of contemporary American artists. The Afghan art, all by contemporary Afghan artists, was purchased by the Embassy. Featured prominently, and shown on the opposite page, is an abstraction in concrete inspired by a Buddhist fresco found at Bamiyan. The sculpture, commissioned by the Embassy, is by Amanullah Haiderzad.



A time to grow...

A 300-mile paved road from Kabul to Kandahar...a modern airport in Kandahar...an Afghan being trained in the modern art of national planning...another learning the science of irrigation...a young American Peace Corps Volunteer assisting in tourist promotion...

These are just some of the ways in which U.S. Agency for International Development workers and other Americans are providing assistance to help Afghanistan pursue its ambitious and progressive plan for national development.

United States assistance to Afghanistan began in 1952; by mid-1967, the total aid contributed by America neared \$400,000,000.

Although the U. S. assistance has been significant in terms of dollars, figures alone do not tell the story--the real story lies in the American working side by side with the Afghan and the concrete progress the two make working together.

Why American assistance to Afghanistan and elsewhere?

President Johnson put it this way: "...the people of the world are no longer content to live in poverty, ignorance and disease. They believe--quite rightly--that in the light of modern knowledge these ancient enemies no longer need be tolerated. They are looking toward our system to show them the way into the 20th century. And we must not fail because the alternative is anarchy, and through anarchy the enemies of freedom will triumph."

Shown on the opposite page is Russell S. McClure, Director of the Agency for International Development Mission in Afghanistan, inspecting wheat at an agricultural research station near Kabul. With him are the farm manager and two Afghan farm workers.



...with faith in the future

America is not a country like others. It does not result from historic growth, geography, or unity of race or religious creed. It is founded on the firm belief that men are not merely fated to repeat history but that they are, in the words of the Declaration of Independence, "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." This was why, to quote Seymour Lipset, the United States became the first New Nation, having broken away from colonial rule to create its own society and institutions.

This was not the achievement of a small elite but of an entire people. Hence Americans feel an instinctive kinship to all those laboring to build their nations, form their societies, develop their economies, and perfect their political institutions. This is why Americans feel that wherever liberty and free development are threatened, there America is also endangered.

We believe that if men can remain proudly themselves and yet work together as brothers, they will discover many areas of common understanding and purpose. Then they will surely progress in the never-ending struggle for a better and more peaceful world.

Together with our Afghan friends, we Americans who are privileged to work in Afghanistan are dedicated to these ideals. May this Embassy building long stand as a symbol of the common purposes which link our two countries.

Bob Stearns



And feel a spirit kindred to my own;
So that henceforth I worked no more alone;

But glad with him, I worked as with his aid,
And weary, sought at noon with him the shade;

And dreaming, as it were, held brotherly speech
With one whose thought I had not hoped to reach.

"Men work together," I told him from the heart,
"Whether they work together or apart."

from "The Tuft of Flowers," by Robert Frost