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**THE KABUL TIMES**

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**THE AGRICULTURAL BANK**

The Agricultural Bank, since its establishment few years ago, has been instrumental in promoting the cause of agriculture in Afghanistan.

Providing water pumps, tractors and fertilizer, it has helped farmers solve their water shortage problems and improve the quality of their harvests. Although what the bank has already done is worth commending, there is room for the bank to expand its area of activity and reap greater returns from the investments it is making in our farmers.

The bank has imported 152 tractors from the United Kingdom and 42 tractors from the Soviet Union. Technically it seems preferable, both to advantage of the farmers who use the tractors, and the bank's workshops which are duty bound to repair them, to import one model. Large quantities of spare parts should be imported and mechanics trained in repairing one particular type of tractor so that no long delays are created when tractors have to be fixed or used.

The bank can also help the farmers set up cooperatives to indirectly purchase tractors and water pumps. The bank could sell tractors on installments to the farm cooperatives. This would insure a continuous wide-scale use of the machinery which is given on loan to the farmers and would induce farmers to use the machinery more carefully since they own it.

If proper planning is done, the bank, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation can also help push for increasing the yields of certain particular crops in the country. Some areas in the north and west are suitable for cultivation of cotton. Since cotton requires harder work farmers may feel satisfied with cultivating wheat and other crops despite the extra money cotton may bring in.

**Food For Thought**

The privilege of absurdity to which no living creature is subject but man only

Thomas Hobbes

able for cultivation of cotton. Since cotton requires harder work farmers may feel satisfied with cultivating wheat and other crops despite the extra money cotton may bring in.

The bank could arrange for a preferential system of distributing agricultural equipment to farmers. Under this system, tractors could be distributed first to those farmers who agree to raise cotton and sugar beet.

We do not know how workable it would be to receive agricultural commodities instead of money. The bank may find it difficult, and perhaps complicated to accept harvests. But if such a system were arranged, the government could easily raise the national stocks of grains. The Ministry of Finance last year launched a plan to purchase foodgrains from the farmers at competitive market rates, but the plan ran into trouble. But if we adopted a system of exchanging goods for goods, there is every reason to believe that the government would have little or no problem at all.

The bank also ought to have an intensive programme, rather than extensive one, for the distribution of tractors and water pumps and fertilizer. The bank ought to choose one particular province first, intensify its efforts there, and evaluate them. In this way the public could see clear improvements in one province. A thorough survey would reveal which of the two systems, extensive or intensive, is really preferable. The bank may also study the possibility of importing second hand tractors. If we can get three used tractors for the price of one new one we ought to choose the first providing the tractors are in good condition.

**Withdrawal Of Rockefeller May Help Kennedy**

By Ralph Harris

Republican Governor Nelson Rockefeller's withdrawal from the presidential race could help Senator Robert F. Kennedy's drive to defeat President Johnson for the Democratic nomination in November's general election, political experts said.

The 59-year-old New York Governor stunned Republicans when he announced at a televised press conference Friday that he will not contest Richard Nixon Republican presidential nomination.

He said his decision was based on a desire to avoid dividing the party and on an awareness that most of the Republican leaders wanted Nixon, vice-president in President Eisenhower's administration, to be the candidate in November.

His political bombshell killed the hopes of the liberal wing of the Republican party, and, according to many observers, might persuade independent voters and Republican "peace doves" to switch pro-Rockefeller sympathy to Senator Kennedy.

There was also considerable speculation that Senator Ken-

edy might decide to stand for the presidency as leader of a "third party" of independents, anti-Johnson intellectuals and dissident democrats if he lost the Democratic nomination to President Johnson.

In announcing his challenge to the president last Saturday, Senator Kennedy, brother of the late John F. Kennedy, disavowed any intention of forming a breakaway movement of his own.

But observers who voiced scepticism at the time recalled that earlier he had decided not to challenge President Johnson for the nomination—yet changed his mind when fellow Vietnam war critic Senator Eugene J. McCarthy drew a large anti-Johnson vote in the New Hampshire primary on March 12.

Most political projections showed President Johnson as the winner for the Democratic nomination, but experts were not discounting the money, skill, political organization and the magic of the Kennedy name which the senator intends to throw into the fight.

In some of the states holding primary elections, independents can vote on Democratic and Republican ballots, and registered party voters are able to cross party lines.

This could see Senator Kennedy drawing off liberal support which would have gone to Governor Rockefeller if he had chosen to stay in the race.

With support virtually promised him by McCarthy if the McCarthy nomination drive failed, Senator Kennedy might see his prospects improve as a result of Governor Rockefeller's withdrawal, observers said.

Nixon was left a clear field in the fight for the Republican presidential nomination, but intense interest was aroused by speculation that California Governor Ronald Reagan might decide to oppose him after all.

Governor Reagan, seeking strength as California's "favourite son" delegation leader at the Republican national convention next August, has his name on the Republican ballot for the Oregon primary on May 28.

**Smith Regime: A Mockery Of Human Rights**

The Soviet Union has always proceeded and proceeds from the belief that all the states of the world should take effective steps to stop the racist terror in Southern Rhodesia, to protect the lives of Africans. It is the duty of the United Nations to take appropriate steps. The Soviet Union, for its part, expresses readiness to participate actively in the carrying out of the measures.

Following are excerpts from the Tass statement:

"The Soviet people are angered by new crimes that are committed in the jails of the racist Southern Rhodesia. The illegal racist Smith regime pursues the policy of physical extermination of African patriots, fighters against apartheid and racialism.

Three Africans on whom the fascist trial passed death sentences were executed in Salisbury on March 6. Two other fighters for freedom of Zimbabwe people Francis Chiris and Takayria Jeremia were executed on March 11. The Rhodesian hangmen plan to do away with another group of Rhodesian patriots.

These criminal acts of the racist regime are a mockery of elementary human rights and liberties, grossly trampled underfoot the United Nations declaration on the granting of independence to colonial states and peoples, the universal declaration on the liquidation of all forms of racial discrimination.

The United Nations General Assembly has condemned the racist policy of the Smith regime as a "crime against mankind" which creates a threat to universal peace and security. The new wave of executions and terror in Southern Rhodesia shows that bloody atrocities are continuing there and that those who carry them out do not stop before the vilest of crimes in their attempt to break the will of African patriots to liquidate racialism and colonialism.

At a time when the peoples, at the call of the United Nations, observe the international human rights year, Rhodesia with open cynicism stages repressions and executions and throws down brazen defiance to the United Nations.

It is clear that racialsists would not be able to commit their crimes

were it not for the support of influential circles of imperialist states. It is no secret that the United Nations decisions on sanctions against Smith's racist regime are undermined by the policy of imperialist states and international monopolies.

Responsibility for the criminal killing of Africans in Southern Rhodesia rests also with the government of Britain which has not taken effective steps against Smith and his henchmen, who had unlawfully seized power in this African state, against the ramage of racist terror.

The policy of bloody terror of the Rhodesian regime is condemned strongly in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has always proceeded and proceeds from the belief that all the states of the world should take effective steps to stop the racist terror in Southern Rhodesia, to protect the lives of Africans.

It is the duty of the United Nations organisation to take appropriate steps for this purpose without delay. Tass is authorised to state that the Soviet Union, for its part, expresses readiness to participate actively in the carrying out of the necessary measures in conformity with the United Nations charter.

**HOME PRESS AT A GLANCE**

Today's *Islah* editorially comments on collection and payment of taxes. If a state is to function properly, and if it is to fulfill the citizens' aspirations for security, health, welfare and progress it needs money for carrying out the job. This money comes through taxation. Nations which have achieved higher degree of advancement and progress enjoy their citizens' full cooperation as far payment of the taxes and dues are concerned.

The social awareness in our country has also to grow if we wish to maintain the present rate of growth, and further speed it up. There are some people in our nation which go into lengthy maneuvers to evade taxes, or postpone indefinitely payment of them, says the editorial.

Remedying this situation is of paramount importance especially now that we are in dire need of money to carry out development schemes, on one hand and pay our foreign dues on the other.

If the situation is not improved our foreign debts will continue to increase and the future will entail larger difficulties for us. Mention is also made in the editorial of the red tape involved in the collection of taxes. Simplifying procedure of payment of taxes and calculation of government dues will greatly contribute to increased government revenues.

*Islah* today carries several letters from its readers. A Letter from Ahmad Ali Ghamgosar notes that despite numerous mentions made in the newspapers of unsanitary conditions in the city's baker shops little heed has been given to the problem by the authorities concerned.

The letter also says that bakers do not sell bread in the prescribed rates and weights. Scornfully the letter concludes what is the use of repeating oneself bringing forth the problem if nothing is done to rectify the situation or if the authorities concerned do not think it merits any attention or settlement.

Another letter from type setter by the name of Ata Mohammad suggests that Radio Afghanistan broadcast the Logari music show on Thursday's instead of Wednesday's which

is presently done. On Thursday's more people who love the Logari music will have an opportunity to tune in to the show as Thursday afternoon is free and they get to their home in time to not to miss the programme.

A letter from Minawar complains

that when traffic lights fail in a busy intersection of the city should be put in order without delay.

In some intersection traffic lights remain disrupted for days in a row thus endangering the life of the vehicle passengers and pedestrians alike.

**World Press**

The Soviet communist party newspaper *Pravda* said that the aim of Israel's attack on Jordan was to render meaningless the work of United Nations peace negotiator Gunnar Jarring.

Commentator Igor Belyayev, who has written many fierce attacks on Israel since last June's Middle East war, charged that the Israeli raid had shown the Jewish state's "militaristic essence."

The Israeli action had down a challenge to the United Nations, "but the rulers of Israel are deeply mistaken if they think their adventurist actions will go unpunished," Belyayev said.

The *New York Times* said in an editorial that "Israel has ruptured the fragile truce in the Middle East with the biggest military assault since its blitz of the Arabs last June."

"It is impossible to accept Israel's assertion that a thrust into Jordan on a 200-mile front with tanks, jets and paratroops, carrying within twenty-five miles of Amman, adds up merely to "localized and limited preventive measures."

Time is not on Israel's side despite its short-run military superiority against a defeated, divided foe. Time is emphatically not on the side of the present rulers of any of the involved Arab states, particularly King Hussein and President Nasser.

"The new major outbreak—carrying, as always the threat of a wider war involving the superpowers—underscores the urgency of a fresh try at promoting negotiations, direct or indirect. The United Nations and individual governments with influence in the Middle East must redouble their efforts, to get such

talks under way."

*Al Ahram* of Cairo warned that Israel had wrecked all chances of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East with her invasion of the Jordan.

In an editorial sternly condemning Israel's attack across the Jordan, *Al Ahram* wrote: "By its new aggression, Israel has wrecked all possibilities of a peaceful solution and finally eliminated all chances of a non-military settlement."

The Cairo daily went on: "Israel has also clearly traced out the way towards a solution of this problem, whether such a solution occurs today or tomorrow."

Stressing that the Palestinian resistance movement would grow steadily day by day, the newspaper launched a general reproach against those who supported Israel, saying: "The crimes committed by the racist Zionists are not only the responsibility of its own leaders but also of large sections of international public opinion which has been taken in and has lent support to a base for aggression against Arab states."

"We have several times repeated that Israel does not desire peace or a peaceful solution. However, we have attempted to achieve such a solution, in order to enlighten world opinion on Israel's true nature."

*Al Ahram* reports President Nasser is expected to make an important statement on his government's future political action next Wednesday or Thursday.

It said Nasser will first discuss the statement with his new cabinet, appointed after an extensive reshuffle last Wednesday.

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