

Thursday, Oct 19

Short on time as usual. Travel has gone pretty well Fary and I arrive in Kabul yesterday. We were in transit for about 30 hours before arriving at Dubai. At our stay in Dubai, we went to the Hospital where she worked twenty-five years ago and found three persons who she knew from the old days. The hotel in Dubai is first class and the last good accommodations we will have for a while. We went to the Dubai airport for our Ariena (Afghan airlines) flight to Kabul getting to the airport at 4:00 AM. We could tell something wasn't right since no one else was there for the flight and no Ariena employees were there. From the best we could tell the flight would not be going out. KAM air also had two flights going to Afghanistan. I have been reluctant to fly KAM air since they put a plane into the mountains last year. But we got the last two seats on one of their flights. We were met at the airport by the Nangarhar University Chancellor but we were not met by our luggage. It showed up an hour later on the second KAM Air flight—the last two bags out of the door.

We spent the afternoon with the Chancellor and realize that much of what we want to accomplish will be quite difficult as I am sure this diary will explain later.

That evening we met with Potential Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Kabul and the Rotary Club of Logar. My e-mail report to Rotary regarding that meeting is below.

Off for some meeting in Kabul now and then on to Jalalabad.

Hi Theresa and Laurie:

Yesterday evening we had interesting concurrent meetings with persons interested in reviving the RC of Kabul and Chartering the RC of Logar. The meetings were concurrent since we have limited time here and there are a few overlapping issues. As a preliminary matter, I should point out that I do not believe any of the RCs in Jalalabad or clubs in formation are functioning in any way that resembles a Rotary like manner. In essence some seem to have meetings on occasion and most not at all. The potential RC of Logar is probably an exception in that I believe they meet every couple of weeks on a regular basis.

RI Registration in Afghanistan

This issue is paramount for the Rotarians in RC of Kabul and Logar present. As previously expressed it is paramount for RC Herat. When meeting previously with RC of Jalalabad this was not of concern. I assured all present we were on the path to getting this resolved and for our planning purposes, let's assume it will be resolved shortly.

RC Kabul reconstruction

We have been in communication with Fazel, the listed president of RC Kabul. We believe he wants to continue his membership in Rotary and help the club succeed but not continue as President. This needs to be confirmed since there is some inconsistent information regarding this. There were four persons present who evidenced a strong commitment to re-build the RC of Kabul. None are present members. Three are Afghan professionals who have lived abroad who have returned to help rebuild their country. The fourth is a lady from Iran also very interested in helping. The three Afghans are quite familiar with Rotary. Although they have not been Rotarians in the past two of them have had substantial interaction with Rotary through their medical professions and understand what Rotary is all about. The four of these persons indicated they believe they can build a core group to have RC of Kabul function in a Rotary like way. They plan to endeavor to start this process now of finding interested individuals and we have scheduled another meeting for the morning of November 3 when Fary and I will again be passing through Kabul on our return to the US.

There was discussion as to whether these individuals should attempt to Charter a new club or work to rebuild the old club. I advised to work to re-build the old club since chartering a new club has additional complications as experienced by the RC of Logar that will be discussed below. The group needs to acknowledge the existing roster, such as it is, for the RC of Kabul and work with Fazel to seek confirmation of further interest in membership by those listed on the roster. I would like input from Theresa and Laurie confirming this approach.

Also, I assume the RC of Kabul is delinquent on dues both to RI and District 3270. I would appreciate receiving an accounting in this regard and hope that some type of arrangement can be worked out so that part of this rebuilding process does not require full back payment of dues for the dysfunctional club.

I am working with Karl Stucki on all of this. We have agreed there are no toes to step on so whatever each of us can do will be in concert. Karl may be coming to Afghanistan in November and can pick up where we leave off.

Also, we talked about the need to have a mentor Rotary Club. It had been contemplated that the RC of Hayward (sunset?) would fulfill that role. That club is made up of Afghans in the San Francisco area. But that club itself is on life support. I believe another club in the US has expressed interest in working with the RC of Kabul and perhaps they could be assigned specific "mentoring" responsibilities including occasional visits to the RC of Kabul. If I am incorrect about this particular club, I am certain Karl Stucki or I can find a "mentor" club in the US. I am certain there are other clubs around the world that would be willing to help out as well.

Establishing RC of Logar

Three representative of the proposed RC of Logar (which I will refer to as RC Logar) were present. Logar is located only about a half hour drive from Kabul and is a separate Province. It sounds like they have been working diligently for months to put together a club but according to them have not received the assistance necessary from the District 3270 leadership in Pakistan. Promises to do things and to meet have gone unfulfilled on a very large number of occasions. I think they have this all pretty well documented and I can request that they do provide a chronology of events and non-events if desired. Incredibly, they indicate that they have a roster of 70 members who want to be Rotarians. I think this has developed because their proposed President, Ms Noorzia Charkhi, is a highly influential member of the community coming from a very highly regarded family. RC Logar does not have the financial commitments required to be a Rotarian fully sorted out but I believe they are working on an internal subsidy program where those who can not pay the full amount may be subsidized by other Rotarians in their club who can and may be even subsidized by some outside interested Afghans in the Logar Province who are not Rotarians. They have been meeting every two weeks and can switch to the weekly format required.

They do not have a sponsoring club in District 3270 but there are two clubs in the US very anxious to work with the RC of Logar. A sponsor club is required so let me digress about the relationship between individuals in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The persons present advised that in essence there is an undeclared war between Afghanistan and Pakistan. This is primarily because of the belief within Afghanistan that Pakistan is sponsoring and importing the terrorism underway and increasing in Afghanistan which is working to de-stabilize its fledgling democracy. As a result Afghans have great difficulty traveling to Pakistan, have to pay large entry fees and now fearing for their life in Pakistan. Accordingly, traveling to Pakistan is out of the question for these individuals wanting to be involved in Rotary. I explained how Rotarians in other parts of the world have sorted out these types of problems and have had good or at least acceptable personal relations notwithstanding differences their governments may have. Thus Rotary's philosophy is to

work around these problems. Yet when the issue is this extreme and personal safety is involved, from a practical standpoint working with the Pakistani Rotarians is not a realistic option at this point in time. And to be fair to the Pakistani Rotarians, they probably feel the same level of personal insecurity when traveling to Afghanistan.

I mentioned three possible ways to approach the issue of club sponsorship and some of these could be combined. Given the political situation, perhaps RI could make an exception and have one or more of the US Clubs working with RC Logar to be the sponsor club without a sponsor club in Pakistan. My club was a co-sponsor club with a Pakistani Club for RC of Jalalabad so having an out of district sponsor club is not without precedent although having the club be the exclusive sponsor is without precedent.

Or (hold your breath) have the reconstituted RC of Kabul be the sponsor club. This would work best if RC Kabul is co-sponsor with one of the US Clubs. This satisfies the technical requirement of having the sponsor club be in District but also provides the practical reality getting meaningful assistance from elsewhere.

The third choice is to find a Pakistani Club willing to be sponsor or co-sponsor. That is probably more hypocritical and impractical than having RC of Kabul as a sponsor.

Your guidance is needed regarding the sponsorship issue. For practical purposes, I believe that at least for now and maybe for the long run the Afghan Clubs will remain in the Pakistani District. I don't want to see the chartering and reconstruction of the existing clubs held up if that issue is to be debated by the RI Board at some point.

Training and Mentoring

We handed out some editions of *The ABC's of Rotary* and the August Edition of *The Rotarian Magazine* which is devoted to Rotary basics. More importantly, we have all but the last six pages of the *ABC's of Rotary* translated in draft for to the Dari language and handed out copies of this. With the likely prospect of four viable clubs in Afghanistan some centralized training can take place. With the new road between Kabul and Jalalabad in its final stages, the distance between those two cities will soon be less than three hours drive. I believe the Herat Rotarians are not adverse to travel to Kabul. Rotarians in the US and elsewhere are interested in the success of Rotary in Afghanistan. If we can have consistent dedicated efforts by Rotarians willing to travel to Afghanistan to help out and a strong resolve by Afghan Rotarians this can work. Pakistani Rotary leadership should be included communications regarding these types of plans and if they want to participate, be sure that the opportunity is available, but the effort to build Rotary in Afghanistan will languish or disappear if initiation and ongoing performance is left in the hands of the Pakistani Rotarians in my opinion. I am not being judgmental about Pakistani Rotarians. I have met many fine ones who help us get started in our efforts in Afghanistan. But instead I am addressing the reality of the tension that presently exists.

I look forward to your comments, guidance and advice regarding the forgoing.

Thank you.

Steve

Oct 20

Yesterday we had three meetings in the morning before hitting the road to Jalalabad.

Our first meeting was with Abdul Hai Sofizada who is the right hand for the Minister of Higher Education in Kabul. He has been the front line contact for San Diego State University in processing the SDSU/NU partnership agreement for World Bank funding. He is a very competent Afghan educated in Pakistan and the UK. Abdul advised that the SDSU/NU partnership is the first partnership to materialize in Afghanistan under the World Bank funding available. Everyone is very pleased with this and it is being looked at as a model program in the country. He advise the MOHE may be open to a follow-up partnership between SEDU and NU for building capacity at NU's engineering school—the first partnership is for building English teaching capacity and technology.

We then met briefly with the Minister of Higher Education. He advised he is pleased with the partnership and the commitment of SDSU to helping higher ED in Afghanistan. The Chancellor was very complimentary of the SDSU team when talking with the Chancellor.

After these meetings we met with representatives of the USAID who are involved with a project known as Afghanistan Higher Education Project-HEP. From what I can tell representatives from University of Mass-Amherst and University of Indiana received a \$37 million commitment from USAID to help teacher education in Afghanistan. Their program includes Nangarhar University and ESL training as well. I wanted to determine to what extent there is overlap in the two funding programs for NU. It appears that there could be overlap in that the HEP projects tentacles may reach beyond ED colleges and branch into English Departments but they were not certain of that. I explained briefly the SDSU/NU partnership parameters to the HEP folks and it looks like some clean lines can and will be drawn. A significant part of their funds are for post graduate scholarships. Neal Mangham, the HEP Chief of Party of USAID advised that the terms of the funding provide that U of M and IU are to be the exclusive providers of education under these scholarships- although we had been advised by his assistant that there may be room for other universities. I think SDSU's Masters Program in Educational Technology would be well suited for this program but it does not seem likely it will be able to participate. All of this seems bit odd in that the NU Chancellor was never consulted as this overall proposal went forwarded which did include his university. Maybe this is how all of these work. The HEP folks did advise that another big proposal is in its final round that will include some funding for medical school education. So far NU has received none and the Chancellor is not aware of how this may come of assistance to NU.

As we left the HEP folks I was advised that the only US place in Kabul that sales beer has been closed down by the moral police. In a total state of shock we then went by land to Jalalabad. After some serious negotiations—no bribing—with the road blockade police, we were allowed to take the new road to Jalalabad--truly a white knuckle ride-a well paved road with lots of curves and cliffs with every driver believing he is in the Indianapolis 500. Without question the most dangerous part of being here.

We arrive at our Guest House—nicknamed the TAJ. The rooms are large with high speed internet connection. The place has a workout room which I advised I would not need a key to but also has a swimming pool where the water is clear enough to see the

bottom. I need to shop for an Afghan swimming suit since the temperatures here are still in the 100s. Fary will need a swimming burka—not sure where to find those. The place is run by some guys from New Zealand who do work for UN related projects under a sub-contract. The place also has the only bar in Jalalabad and thus is a popular spot for those working for NGOs. I went to bed when the bar was still hopping. The place has good security and is located out of town pretty close to the University. They serve western food and you get to sit in chairs and use silverware. They also have their own generators so electricity should not be a problem. Meals are included for the \$40 per day but Heineken is 1\$ per can. This should serve our needs well.

Steve

Oct 21

Yesterday was a very busy day. It started with Ishaq meeting with us at the Taj on his way to Kabul for the EID holiday. He is the person who we first connected with back in November 2002 and has overseen the building of the school and other projects. Ishaq is a true first class and thoughtful person. He advised that the situation in the country has definitely deteriorated. There are two primary concerns---lack of security and pervasive corruption. No one feels very safe any more although Jalalabad is considered one of the most peaceful places in the country. The corruption is happening at all levels and is being built into the system. The reason the Taliban are regaining popularity is that under the Taliban people felt secure (even though oppressed) and also they did not tolerate much corruption. These are issues that the US forces and NATO forces are going to have difficulty dealing with-- if at all. Ishaq advises that the Jalalabad Mayor has changed again. He isn't sure how or why the change took place. The Abdul Haq Foundation where he was working when he helped us is essentially closed. Ishaq now works for IF Hope fulltime but is willing to help on Rotary projects to the extent he has personal time. He is living by our Rotary school. In fact, he may be able to help us have the internet lab at our school set up to be a self sustaining community resource. He also advised that AHF's highly talented business manager, Muslim, will be let go at the end of this month. Fary and I have worked with Muslim for many years and he comes highly recommended by Ishaq. We will interview him today for a possible position of being the business manager for the International Learning Center we are building at the NU campus. We were thinking of hiring him part time anyway to be an on the scenes gopher to help follow up with the various projects we have underway here. Those two employment possibilities may quickly merge and in fact Muslim may also be able to assist with using the computer lab as a community resource. At the close of the meeting Ishaq as President of the RC of Jalalabad signed the Matching Grant application for furnishing of the Guest House and International Learning Center at the NU Campus.

We then met with Dr. Basir Mangal at the Taj who was one of the two NU medical professors who took the on-line ESL program for the medical profession and hosted Dr. Art Mendoza from San Diego earlier this year. He is making his car and driver available to us. We asked him to organize a meeting with three other doctors we know for later in the day.

We then went to the NU School of Computer Science and Technology where Fary had a contact—Badam-- who was a student representative of two groups of students who were studying at the Shirza Institute. That Institute was being funded by someone in Saudi Arabia but he cut off the funds. This year it got folded into NU. The Institute had a program for Computer Science and one for English. We were hoping that Badam could arrange for interviews with the English students for possible positions in the SDSU/NU partnership. Although he could arrange the interviews, they would be a waste of time. All the English students are having to repeat their third year of university since the English program aborted mid stream last year. Thus they are two years away from graduation. But in talking to Badam we learned there may be interest in the recent computer science graduates (including himself) in switching careers and teaching English. He advised he could roundup the candidates in a few minutes. Fortunately I had brought my video camera and digital camera. We conducted 11 interviews over the next five hours—with a one hour break for prayer. The 11 candidates fell into two categories. About half of them were now on the faculty at NU teaching computer science with no pay and the other half were jobless. All spoke English well to extremely well. All are highly intelligent and motivated. The best news is that those who are on the NU faculty are positioned to overcome our biggest hurdle. The Chancellor and MOHE require the candidates to be accepted NU faculty before entering the SDSU/NU program. We will confirm with the Chancellor today that these unpaid faculty so qualify. We had some concern about persons changing careers and if they may hurt the NU computer science program. But that should not be the case. There remain many persons who seem well qualified to teach at that program and everyone acknowledges that there is an extreme shortage of good English teachers. We stressed in the interviews that being accepted would constitute a career change and based on the responses of the candidates we are able to pretty well distinguish which candidates are truly willing to make the career change. They all understand that we are looking for long term commitments to teaching English at NU at a salary far less than what they could earn at an NGO

Also, part of our task here is to conduct interviews to find a systems administrator for the technology piece of the SDSU/NU partnership. It may well be that those who are not willing to make a career change would fit well into this position. We did not mention this possibility when interviewing. We will review all of this with the Chancellor. We advised the candidates we likely will undertake follow-up interviews with the finalists. We are awaiting info from Steve Spencer regarding the job description and personal qualifications for the Systems administrator and we are waiting for guidance from Marla Federe for obtaining writing samples and being provided something short for each English teaching candidates to read out loud.

After the interviews we returned to the Taj and fortunately found the bar open. After a quick libation, Drs. Khan and Khalil (the two GSE professors Rotary brought to San Diego in 2005) and Drs. Mangal and Suffiolia (who both went through the on-line ESL program provided by UCSD) came to the Taj. We discussed several things. The upcoming demo of the on-line ESL program for 30 medical students, the fact that the Encinitas/LA Costa RC would like to adopt the Teaching Hospital—Dr.Khan will

prioritize his needs for that club, and most importantly, the need to buildup the membership in the Rotary Club of Jalalabad. We are hoping all of them will become members and find additional members. Each of them understands the spirit of Rotary to varying degrees. We provided them the ABC's of Rotary and the Dari translation thereof.

Dr. Suffiolia also agreed to translate a letter from Rotary to the Minister of Justice and I believe will translate the Rotary Constitution as well. This is required to proceed with the process of registering Rotary International in Afghanistan.

We then had a quick bite to eat and were joined by Flouran Wali at the bar. Flouran traveled with Fary and me on our first trip to Afghanistan and now has a permanent position with DAI here in Jalalabad.

Overall it was a busy and productive day.

Steve

Oct 22.

The day started with Fary and me going to the Rotary School. We had been told there would be no students there because of the upcoming EID holiday but we nevertheless had some things we needed to do there. When we got there the school was in full session. We met Habib (our computer systems very part time administrator). He had told us the internet was working the day before but last night they made some changes on the satellite and all computers needed to be reconfigured. During the course of the morning he was able to do that. We provided him Norton Anti-Virus software to load since the computers previously were not connected to the internet and thus did not need anti-virus protection. We also provided Habib MS Office tutorial programs for all of the computers. Once the lab was operational, and after the students left, some of the faculty came in to experiment. Most had never used the internet. Habib directed them to a BBC site all in Pashto. They were fascinated. We also set up the English teacher with the Rosetta Stone software and he practiced the English provide through that training program.

At the school we also met an Afghan lady from DAI (a large US Based NGO doing work in Jalalabad) who has been helping us find female teachers. It turns out that there have been a total of four female teachers for some time but two are working without any pay. (Fary had previously thought the community was paying these two.) We advised we had funds for these two teachers and would raise funds to find three more female teachers. The DAI lady advised she can find the three more teachers. We now have girls going to school through grade seven and with the additional female teachers will immediately expand it to grade 8 and have a total of seven female teachers. The principal has advised that the school can be run in two shifts to accommodate the situation if necessary. The school now has 2,800 students enrolled with about 2,500 attending regularly. There are about 900 girls enrolled.

The facility itself looks good until a closer inspection is made. There are some cracks in the walls and some plaster is falling off. We may need to seek recourse against Rick Clark the San Diego architect who designed the school.

We believe that the school should become a magnet school with the internet lab now working and hopefully will soon also function as a high school. There are ninth grade boys at the school now.

The computer lab will first be used to train teachers and hopefully the teachers will then train the students. The funding for the internet connection runs out in April as does the funding for the part time administrator for the lab. So we do have some ongoing financial needs to address. (We need to also raise more funds to cover the costs of the f-mail teachers—about \$60 per month per teacher.)

We talked with the principal about turning the lab into a community internet café when students are not at the school. He seems open to this and hopefully there could be profit generated to cover the costs of running the lab.

Overall we were quite pleased with how things are going at the school but many things still need constant attention—quality of the teaching, utilization of the computer lab etc.

Also, we just learned this morning that NBC nightly news wants to do some filming at the school and will be sending someone down from Kabul—not sure what that is all about but we will try to coordinate that shortly after the EID holiday.

We also met Muslim at the school and talked with him about several things. He will be unemployed at the end of October. We have worked with him for several years while he was the business manager at AHF. He also comes highly recommended by Ishaq. He is very interested in being considered as the business manager for the ILC at the NU campus. He also is interested in helping Fary and me on follow up items after we leave. He may also be interested in helping to set up the Internet care at our school.

We then visited Wali in town who is involved with the Rotary Club. We bought some speakers from him to use when we demo the on-line ESL software for the medical profession. (I brought some from the states but blew them up with the 220 voltage here.)

From there we stopped of at the TAJ and I printed Muslim's CV to show to the Chancellor. We met at the Chancellors home and talked about the interviews we had undertaken the day before. The Chancellor advises that even if these individuals are highly qualified to teach English, the MOHE will not allow them to teach English at NU since they do not hold degrees in English. It may be that this can be explored further—especially if they complete the 30 week intensive training course at SCSU but the Chancellor was not optimistic in this regard.

He did advise that there are three candidates he would like us to interview who are presently on the NU faculty and are otherwise qualified. Fortunately, I had all my

equipment with me to conduct the interviews so we then interviewed three more candidates that afternoon. These candidates were all excellent and better than any of the candidates we interviewed the previous day. Any of the three should qualify for the TESOL Masters program. The Chancellor is also arranging for some more candidates to come down from Kabul to be interviewed. We were very encouraged after interviewing these candidates but still believe it will be hard to find 8 solid candidates for the ESL program.

We then reviewed the meeting with Muslim and the Chancellor was very encouraging. He trusts us for the recommendation and we will arrange for the Chancellor to meet him while we are here.

While at the university we visited the Guest House and International Learning Center under construction. They both should be complete in about 2 months—much faster than I had anticipated.

From there we went back to the Taj. Our schedule for the next day was uncertain. At 11:00 in the evening a determination will be made if the EID holiday starts the next day—depending on a sighting of the moon in Saudi Arabia. If the sighting does not take place, then EID automatically starts the following day. If no EID then meetings as usual but it is a bit hard to schedule.

Steve

October 23

Yesterday EIDs did not start thanks to the people in Saudi Arabia looking for the moon and not finding it the night before. So a work day was salvaged with our primary activity being to go to the Nangarhar Public Hospital and meet with its Director, Dr. Pardis and some of his staff. Through a Rotary Foundation special grant we funded setting up a V-SAT high speed internet connection for this hospital. It is one of the largest hospitals in the country with about 500 beds. They have plenty of computers but no internet connection. We set this up about one month ago even though we do not have long term funding for the connectivity. For all the government money swirling around in the system from the US and elsewhere, no one seems to be able to come up with about \$6,000 per year to pay for internet connectivity at this hospital. It looks like the internet is being put to good use and we believe Dr. Pardis will find it easier to make the case for the funding when its actual utilization is documented. We have provided three months funding and I promised another three months as well. We toured the hospital campus. The internet is delivered to two buildings at about five different internal locations. It is in the mid-wifery school for training, the administrator's office for the mid-wifery school, Dr. Pardis, personal residence in the hospital, the hostile for the midwifery students and the hostile for the male nursing students. There are plans to provide it to more administrative positions as well. It looks to us that it is being well utilized for various functions. I provided Dr. Pardis Norton System Works software for each "live" computer station

emphasizing the importance of immediate installation. I also provided him some tutorial discs for the Microsoft Office suite.

Dr. Pardis mentioned that the hospital's primary need remains assistance in learning how to properly administer a hospital. This is also what he had mentioned when we were here a year ago. We are hoping some of the Afghan physicians in the US may be able to help in this regard. In particular Dr. Stansi (sp?) from the Redlands area has developed sophisticated software relative to hospital administration which I believe is being implemented in Kabul with the assistance of Cisco Corp. Perhaps Dr. Stansi can provide some assistance to the NPH. Even if they are not ready for implementation of a sophisticated IT admin program, Dr. Stansi and some of his colleagues have given Afghan hospital administration considerable thought and hopefully will be able to help out with the same.

Finally, Dr. Pardis mentioned he would like to join the Rotary Club and have one of his assistants join as well.

From the hospital we went to the Nangarhar office of the Director of Education to talk about female education at our Rotary School. We just missed the Minister and hope to catch up with him later in the week.

We returned to our guest house and spent the afternoon going through our list of tasks prioritizing what we need to do when. The EID holiday is having a very different impact than anticipated. When we were last here during EID, we were able to stay active often meeting with western NGOs who remain functioning somewhat during that three day period. This time, our interaction is almost exclusively with local Afghans who treat each of the three days of EID like we treat Christmas Day. To complicate matters, this year EID ends on Wednesday with Thursday being the only working day until Friday which is the traditional one day off for the week. So few are working on Thursday and none Friday making the EID period is really lasting five days. Beyond this, the Chancellor had invited us to join him and the NU faculty for the beginning celebration of EID this morning. However we talked to him on the phone last night and he had been advised for security reasons to cancel the public celebration which he has done.

In checking around, it is prudent for us to stay at our compound all day for this first day of EID. Some people anticipate some trouble in public areas so we will be nowhere near them. Our compound has two sets of armed guards outside and a big steel gate with a lot of space between the inside of the gate and our building. There are other armed guards inside the gate. They have never had a security issue here so this seems to be a good place to be. It is pleasant here. A bit like a fraternity house with a bunch of retired military guys from New Zealand who still have a strong sense of adventure to be satisfied.

So today will be a down day catching upon stuff and not sure what the schedule will be tomorrow.

Steve

Oct 24.

Today's journal entry will be short. For security reasons we stayed at the Taj all day yesterday. It provided a good chance to get caught up on e-mails and paper work. It is amazing how much there is to do just through e-mail. Having internet in our rooms has made it some much easier to operate on this trip. Before we would need to seek out one of our internet facilities and have one chance per day to receive and respond to e-mail.

Flouran Wali came over yesterday late afternoon and it was good to spend time with her. She says her group has had its security restriction lifted as of late yesterday.

This morning Fary and I spent time talking to Jerry who is an American staying at the Taj working with the New Zealand group. Fascinating how they operate. They are funded by USAID, through the UN but technically work for a private Australian Company. They need this arrangement since USAID and the UN could not authorize their direct employees to work in the fashion they are working. They are re-building the road from Jalalabad to Tora Bora—which was the last place Ben Laden was holding out and which was bombed heavily by the Americans. They travel with their own private Army made up of well armed Afghans and highly trained Nepalese forces. They have heavy duty armored vehicles and travel with bullet proof vests and helmets. They have radio scrambler in their vehicles so that improvised explosive devises can not be set off remotely by radio or cell phone. They have lost one of their guards to an IED when the scrambler was not sufficiently effective. Each of he Western team has \$500,000 of life insurance at the cost of \$13,000 per month.

The security at the Taj is highly trained and they have stored here a large arsenal of weapons and ammo. Jerry says it's for the worst case scenario. Sort of reminds me of the Alamo. They have given much thought to security at all levels. They are doing incredibly dangerous work in a very dangerous area. Their problem is everyone knows where they are working so changing schedules, which they do regularly, only provides limited protection. It truly takes a special breed to do what these guys are doing.

That's all for now. Off to a meeting.

Steve

Oct 25

Yesterday we met with Inge Detlfsen at Relief International. We reviewed the interim report she had provided on the Micro credit project. Rotary requires additional reports and we reviewed the information with Inge regarding this. She believes she can have the information to us in the next few days. The first lending cycle is not yet complete so we are not yet in a position to file the final report with Rotary.

We also talked about their internet program based at the College of Education at NU. We had originally suggested they set the program up at that facility since they already had computers there and it is centrally located. They have 11 schools using their internet lab in addition to the College of Ed students and some members from the community. Their connectivity and administrative funding runs out in April with no identified source of continued funding. Again there seems to be no coordination regarding the various institutions and funding sources trying to help out here. We will talk to the Chancellor about this. Perhaps some of the \$37 M of USAID funds for the HEP program—all of which is to be used to assist the development of teacher training in Afghanistan could cover the connection and related costs of a few hundred dollars a month.

We returned to the Taj and Professor Safi Dost came to spend some the afternoon with us. He is an ESL professor from NU we brought to San Diego as part of the 2005 GSE team. He is presently taking an on-line ESL class through a university in Indiana funded by USAID or the US Dept of State. He was not sure which. Again we want to try to chase this down since this may be similar to what SDSU may want to develop as a component of its partnership with NU.

He lives with his extended family near our Rotary school. He believes the community there would be able to financially support an internet café at our school.

The Chancellor is about to drop into the Taj. Got to go.

Steve

Oct 25

OK we did some work yesterday. The Chancellor met with us at the Taj and we reviewed several of the open items. Some things will definitely be a challenge to accomplish. Late afternoon we went to DAI for dinner with Flouran Wali. Her security picked us up with an armed escort and went to their new guest house. It is very nice but doesn't have the amenities of the Taj. Got to get back to work today—nor more time to work on my bench presses.

Steve

Oct 26

Yesterday we met with the Chancellor with Muslim (the candidate to be the business manager for the International Learning Center). The Chancellor wants to review some proposals Muslim has prepared before making a hiring decision. We then reviewed the following items with the Chancellor:

- Anticipated interviews with more ESL professor candidates—some should be coming from Kabul but we won't know the status until at least Saturday
- Confirmed that he would like SDSU to submit a partnership proposal for Engineering Faculty with World Bank funding
- Confirmed the IT internet assessment which will take place on site Friday and discussed the need to take inventory of computers. Kadwal advises as follows: 10 computers at Engineering building we set up, 6 computers at English Dept and 6 computers at Law and Islamic law faculty—all of the forgoing connected to the internet. Eight computers at economics faculty-working but not on internet and about 40 old computers donated by Korea in storage
- We review where things stand on finding candidates for the IT Systems Manager. We will look to Badam to help identify candidates from CS graduate pool who are not presently teaching. We want Habib to be considered in this pool. We will look to Shahib to help screen candidates remotely.
- We discussed the need for extra circuitry and outlets at the ILC to handle the IT load. We will meet with the construction person regarding this. Fary does not want purple toilet fixtures in the ILC and GH.
- Advised Chancellor of the Saturday demo of on-line ESL for the medical school students
- Advised Chancellor of the need to identify around 3 or 4 students who will have finished their freshman year in spring of 07 to come to SDSU for short term (3 week) peace and conflict resolution workshop
- Advised Chancellor of site visit from next Tuesday and Wednesday with Washington State University representative re digital classrooms and digital library
- Reviewed logistics of signing of World Bank document-We hope to bring the signed copy with us on our return
- Identified the three vice chancellors and confirmed using Kadwal for communication assistance with Chancellor
- Confirmed that we will communicate with Relief International and those involved with the HEP project (\$37 M for teacher ed) to point out the College of Ed internet funding finishes next April and appeal to get some of \$37 M to continue its use.
- Advised of rebuilding of Rotary Club in Jalalabad. Chancellor wants so to join.

We then walked the entire campus. It is unbelievably beautiful but very run down. Multi-million dollar science building being built by the Pakistani government. We spent about 4 hours with the Chancellor

Came back to the Taj and met with Anne Williams from DAI. They have major funds to implement alternative livelihood program regarding poppy eradication. As part of this she would like to see curriculum offered at NU for business planning for the agriculture profession. She inquired if SDSU might have something to offer. I advised that we could check regarding SDSU's Imperial Valley campus. The funds available would be less than \$100,000 and an RFP would need to be put out for competitive bidding. It may be that a short term workshop could be provided by SDSU for English speaking NU ag professors.

We then went to the Spinghar hotel and had dinner with former GSE team members Safi Dost and Hamid Kadwal. They are sincere good friends. Hamid applied for a part time job funded by SDSU to teach English to the Islamic Law professors. He had to go through teaching simulation in his interviews. There were many competitors. He advised that he used the techniques he was taught at SDSU and landed the job. He and Safi both are very appreciative of the training they received at SDSU.

As an interesting side note, when I now connect the dots I find that the radical fundamentalists at NU are in the Islamic Law faculty, USAID is providing them funding for the internet connection and USAID is providing funding to teach them English. Not sure if this is good or bad but it reminds me of the USAID money we saw in use a few trips back that was being used to dredge the canals with end result being to increase poppy production.

Came back to the Taj where there were several people from various NGOs at the bar. It turned out to be Karaoke night and I have videotape of some of the worst singing I have ever heard. And that was without participation by Fary or me.

Off to the US Military base this morning.

Steve

Oct 28

Yesterday we met with Danny Hall who is with the US Department of State embedded with the PRT and the US military base here. He will be here another 10 months and can provide us some assistance in getting the US Visas for the Afghan professors coming to the US under the SDSU/NU partnership. He can't influence the result but can provide logistical guidance. We learned that no one is presently in the USAID position with the PRT in Jalalabad. USAID has some discretionary local funds but with no one in the position, no one has any decision making authority over local funds. Our meeting was cut short because a general arrived for a base briefing. We did also have a chance to talk to Kevin Dougherty with Civil Affairs who Fary had met before. He talked about some of Civil Affairs projects in place. None related to things we are pursuing in the education or public health field. Overall the meetings were not very productive.

We then met with Toni, the IT V-SAT person from Janet McDonald's company in Kabul and went to the NU campus. We reviewed with the Chancellor possible internet configurations and walked the campus. Toni will provide a proposal in a few days. The proposal will likely be for a rather inexpensive way to make internet available throughout the entire campus using the V-SAT system we established a couple of years ago. Toni advises that Motorola has a new canopy program that he thinks will work well for providing an access point at the NU campus. He is presently installing it at a location in Kabul. He wants to experiment at the NU campus within the next month to see what will work best. In essence an access point can be provided on a rod on top of the building where the V-

SAT is located and it can beam a signal to various buildings where we place receiving rods. Those rods will send a wired signal to a router in each building so equipped and from each building's router a signal can be sent either on a wired basis or wireless basis to computers in the building. My guess is this set up can be accomplished for a few thousand dollars. But there will be several challenges. We need to have live electricity in each building where we have routers and computers. That may require generators and fuel costs or invertors for each site. Some trees may block some of the line of site signals. For short pulls that is not a problem but for longer pulls it may create issues. We also need a continual source of electricity to run the V-SAT and access point. I mentioned to Toni about the set up we have attempted at our Rotary school. There we have this set up I now understand is called an inverter. It is a box hooked up to a number of batteries that are about the size of car batteries. The box is plugged into the wall outlet and the computer room should be plugged into the box as well but it is not so wired for some reason. Then during the hours when the electricity is running the inverter can charge the batteries and run the system and when the electricity is off the batteries takeover. Thus there is no fuel cost but the batteries may run about \$150 apiece and need to be replaced about once a year. Since electricity is usually on for a few hours per 24 hour period, this may work. I would sure like to get some info regarding solar options for the other buildings as well. An other issue will be band width. Our V-SAT system has good expansion capacity. At \$460 per month we have a 128 K upload and 512 K download presently. What is more important is that there can be no more than 10 total customers we share with. Thus we are always guaranteed 1/10th of the band width and we can go beyond that when it is available through lack of use by other customers. We likely will want to increase the band width available and look for funding sources for this—perhaps through the WSU digital class room program we will be reviewing with Hila next week.

We then came back to the Taj and got caught up on paperwork. It looks like there is some prospect developing to include SDSU's agribusiness program at its Imperial Valley campus in the mix of things. We are working on this and will soon know a little bit more about this.

My careful eye has recently noticed that an acute beer shortage may be developing at the Taj and it is not being caused by me. These Kiwis will drink you under the table but I am above all of that.

Steve

Oct 29

Yesterday was a pretty full day. We arrived at the school around 8:00 AM and met with the principal to prepare for the NBC Nightly News shooting the next day. Pasted below is an e-mail Rick Clark obtained about the NBC Nightly News:

Hi Rick,

We are all excited too. Fary will be featured in our Nightly News segment called "Making a Difference" where we profile people who are indeed making

*personal sacrifices to "make a difference" for others. Fary is just perfect!
At the moment Nightly has the piece slated to run on Nov 23rd. - if that
changes i will certainly keep you informed.*

*Jim Maceda is the correspondent. He will sit down and do a proper interview
with Fary in the next couple of weeks.*

I will keep in touch with you along the way.

Best regards// Carol

We are inviting parents and village elders to the school and will have a special presentation for some of the students to show them the DVDs made at Doyle Elementary school—their sister school in San Diego. We worked some more in the computer lab to get it fully operational. Habib was there to oversee that. We explained to the principal the importance of the story and in particular how we want to show that females are receive education with the full support of the school staff, the Ministry of education and most important with the support of their parents and village elders. We also hope to have the filming reference the shortage of female teachers and the needs for more resources to have females attend colleges of education. Fary also sorted through eight boxes of donations she has worked on for two years to get to the school. They contain school supplies and gift boxes arranged by Interact kids in San Diego. Once school adjourned, many of the older students came to the internet lab and started doing things like Google searches etc. Some speak enough English where we could assist them and they could read what they were bringing up on their screens.

From the school we went to a carpenter's shop who will be making a secure cabinet for the computer lab and who will be making the furniture for us for the ILC and GH on the NU campus.

We then went to the medical school to demo the on-line ESL software for the medical profession. My computer needed to get reconfigured to accommodate the static IP address for the lab. After about 45 minutes of fussing around we spent over an hour demo-ing the software. I ran the program and professor Safi olla provided the explanation. There were about 25 interested persons ranging from medical professors, medical students and doctors from the public hospital. Many signed up on the spot and we agreed that some of the 30 scholarships we are providing can be used by doctors working at the public hospital.

We then had a quick lunch around 3:30 and went to Wali's office to talk about Rotary and obtain the Rotary banner and bell for the upcoming meeting.

From there we went to Flouran Wali's office. Dr. Safi olla has translated the entire Rotary International Constitution into Dari and I needed it scanned to send to the Ministry in Kabul. Flouran's office was able to do this. We also met with the lady from her office who is helping to find female teachers for our school. One additional individual has been

identified and she believes she can find two more. We also ran into one of our ESL scholarship candidates who had been out of town and was not aware of the immediate need for him to fill out the Rotary Scholarship application I had sent him.

From there we went back to the guest house and before Fary could finish her beer, the NBC cameraman arrived to meet us. We talked with him for a couple of hours. He wanted some background information. He is Afghan with world-wide experience. I realized we have an opportunity with him. As part of a grant we received for our school from Hewlett Packard and Sister Cities International, we are suppose to have speakers at our school talk about what it means to be Citizens of the World. He has agreed to talk to the students about this.

We then had a quick bite of our dinner which had become cold followed by a meeting with Dr. Rabbani who is an advisor to the Ministry of Public Health. We usually see him when we are here. He keeps the Minister advised of our activities. He wants to arrange for us to meet with the Minister on our return through Kabul but it may not fit our schedule or the Ministers.

I then attempted to get on-line with my computer but nothing worked because it had been re-configured and a system restore did not help. I called the person who had made the changes and after about an hour was back in business.

That ended a pretty full day.

Steve

Oct 30

We went to the school yesterday morning spending time with the NBC cameraman. I think he will have some great shots of Fary interacting with students, teachers, and elders. I pressured him into talking to the students about his own career and experiences. He really got into it after being reluctant to do this in the first place. He is coming back for more shots today We used the laptop and projector provided by the HP/SCI grant to show some Power Point slides of Doyle Elementary School..

From there we went to DAI and had lunch with Flouran and met with DAI's local head. Nice guy interested in our projects and interested in the potential SDSU ag business connection. We are invited to a Halloween party at DAI and will probably go if we can get out of another commitment. Not sure what my costume will be. It might be too scary for the locals if I come in my native dress from Southern California

We then stopped off at the RANA Institute which Fary had discovered on her last trip. A local wealthy Afghan has set up this institute to provide fee English and IT training. It presently has 1,800 students and the quality of the education far surpasses anything the

government provides. Students are of all ages and many from NU including the medical school to improve their English. They have internet for their IT instruction. It so happened that the founder, Abdul Zahir, came to the office where we were meeting and we spent an hour or so with Zahir and his team. His father had been Governor of Nangarhar Province and Vice-President of Afghanistan when he was assassinated in Kabul a few years ago. Zahir is high up in the military and is in charge of the Eastern Zone border with Pakistan. He clearly is an influential and powerful figure. His English is good and he is providing a tremendous service for his country. Not sure where his wealth comes from but not hard to guess. He is very interested in what we are doing. He also is involved in projects in the public health field, cataract surgeries and growing of trees. He has over 200,000 trees in planting. He is proud of what he is doing for his country. Females get priority for his education classes. Many mullahs are also taking his English classes and IT Classes. He is very interested in what we are doing. Not sure what to make of all of his activities but they are clearly very beneficial to the Afghan population. We want to see if the NBC cameraman can spend some time with him today. He says the only media outlet he has ever talked to is Al Jacera (sp?)

From there we met with Mr. Mokhles (sp?) who heads up the Jalalabad branch of Afghan's International Chamber of Commerce. He had been trying to find out about the Sister Cities arrangement a short time ago. He is very enthusiastic in leading up the effort to establish a Sister Cities Committee in Jalalabad. This is just what we need—a committee that is not dependent upon government leadership. He understands the concept and confirms there will be substantial interest in the business community. We will be meeting with the group he puts together this Wednesday.

Went back to the Taj where we finished what appears to be the last beer in the place.

Steve

Oct 31

Generator crashed here yesterday raising havoc. Beer has run out. This place is losing its charm.

Yesterday went to the school for more filming by NBC. Interact gift boxes were handed out. Sent e-mails from school computer lab since we were shut down at the Taj. We were joined by Pakistani Rotarian Zamarud Shah who was instrumental in getting the school built. From there we took the NBC cameraman to RANA Institute to hopefully do a story in the future. Then Zamarud, Fary, and I met with Rafi Sayad at Spinghar Hotel for Zamarud to interview him for a Rotary Scholarship on behalf of the Pakistani District. Interview went well and Zamarud will recommend. Zamarud also suggested Afghanistan be taken out of District with Pakistan.

Went to NU to show Zamarud ILC, GH and multi-million dollar science building his government is building in Afghanistan. Our driver took Zamarud to the taxi station so he could return to Peshawar the same day—two trips through the Khyber Pass. Boy is he

dedicated. Fary and I spend the next hour or so with the construction superintendent going room by room through the ILC and GH. We all have many questions of our architect-Abdul fullofexcuses Rick Mohammad Clark.

We then met with the Chancellor. No ESL candidates will be coming from Kabul during our trip. The Chancellor had some serious legitimate issues with the two that were to come. They are going to post notices in Kabul to try to get more candidates. We talked with the Chancellor regarding the problem with the limitation being imposed on possible candidates—they must be on faculty and hold English degrees. More discussion needs to follow on this topic. We then did interview a fourth candidate.

We made a brief stop at the guest house and then met RC Jalalabad President Ishaq at Spinghar Hotel for final interview with Rafi Sayad. They knew each other and an endorsement will follow.

We then held a meeting of the RC of Jalalabad at Spinghar Hotel. We added 9 members all familiar to us and deleted 7 members. Elections were held with Dr. Khan volunteering to be President, Safi Dost, Secretary and Hamid Kadwal Treasurer. The Rotary spirit was strong and Dr. Khan demonstrated good leadership explaining the need for volunteerism in Afghanistan.

On the way our of the Spinghar purchased four beers for Fary and returned to the Taj. Electricity was back on, internet working and the bar closed.

Steve

Nov 1

We met with carpenter yesterday who will be building furniture for ILC and GH. Then went to the bank to close the old account Fary was on with Wali and open a new account with Fary, Muslim and Flouran to sign. Were unable to close old account without Wali but could open new account after an hour and a half. Then went to Rotary school. Fary was interviewed for the NBC production—as opposed to the filming that has taken place the last two days. Had a flat tire in front of the Spinghar Hotel so stopped off for some refreshments there. Went to the Pediatric Hospital and met with Dr. Khan to pick up video camera for the Rotary School. Also met Dr. Safiollia there and gave him the webcam we have brought for the medical school computer lab. The Chancellor arrived about when we did. He advised that there may be a lady coming from Kabul Nov 1 for an ESL interview. The Chancellor approved the hiring of Muslim. Then went to IF Hope and met with Ishaq and Muslim. Also met with their plant nursery person—we are putting in some landscaping at the school. From there went to the Jalalabad airport and picked up Hila from Washington State University. Came to the Taj and talked with Hila about possible collaboration between WSU and SDSU. Then Fary and I went to DAI for a Halloween Party. They have a big deck area and it was all decorated with real jack-o-lanterns, ghosts and balloons. Had a barbecue and there was plenty of beer. Probably about 50 people at the party. Many had masks. I asked where they found them in

Jalalabad. What they did was find masks on the internet, print them with color printers and then glue cardboard backings to them. Hila stayed behind at the Taj to do some work.

Today is our last day in Jalalabad and will be dealing with several loose ends and with Hila at NU. The cameraman called last night from Kabul and is coming down again today to do some more interviewing with Fary so we will be going back to the school.

Steve

Nov 2

Leaving for Kabul in a few minutes.

Yesterday met with carpenter to reviewed items he will build for ILC and GH. Muslim joined us and will follow up. Then went to Rotary school. Fary handed out gifts and NBC came back to Jalalabad for one more filming of Fary. Went to bank finished closing the account. Went to airline was told all Ariana flights are cancelled. (Subsequently learned that probably is not correct.) Went to NU Col. of ED and met wit Habib to review follow up items for Rotary school like showing Doyle CDs and providing weekly report. Went to NU with Hila and met with Chancellor re collaboration between WSU, SDSU and NU. Looks like a great fit for all. Then Fary and I went to Jalalabad office of Chamber of Commerce. 20 business and civic leaders were there. Explained Sister Cities Concept and they enthusiastically support the same. They will have staff support through the local chamber office. Gave a brief interview to Voice of America. Stopped off and Spinghar Hotel to re-stock Taj bar. Said our good-bys to the Taj folks, sorted paperwork and packed.

Steve

Nov. 3

It is Friday morning and we are in Kabul at the Kabul Inn. The trip yesterday from Jalalabad was almost pleasant-three hours door to door leaving at 6:00 AM with little traffic. The mountain pass is truly spectacular but they don't have guard rails up yet and in some places the drop is about 1,000 feet straight down. Biggest fear is someone else traveling fast on the wrong side of the road at the wrong time and knocking you over the cliff. Once in Kabul we went to the Ariana office and re-confirmed our flight to Dubai. Supposedly no problem even though Ariana's Jalalabad office said they are no longer flying that route. Then went to the Justice Ministry to see about registering Rotary in Afghanistan. They simply are not set up for the idea of registering a service organization yet everyone says Rotary must be registered and this is of concern to Rotarians. We also went to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to see about registering there but again they want to treat us like an NGO will staff, assets and physical office space. I think I have a solution but don't want to put it in print. That burned up most of the morning and we then

went to meet with the Minister of Public Health. He had requested the meeting with us but it turned out a conflict developed and he was unavailable. We meet with one of his deputies and the meeting was probably more significant than if we had just had a ceremonial photo op with the Minister himself. The deputy is directly involved with Rotary's polio eradication efforts in Afghanistan where there have been some setbacks. From there we went to Camp Phoenix which we were advised is the main US military station for all of Afghanistan. Rotarian Bob Griffin had met a lady (Janet) on a plane who is from San Diego who was about to be stationed at Camp Phoenix so he put us together. Janet showed us around the base and explained her role in working with Public Affairs. She is a real inspiration and very enthusiastic about her job. She said all hell broke loose on the base regarding John Kerry's recent comment about the military. She herself holds a Master Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis on Public Health. We returned to the Kabul Inn and met up with Fazel Karimn Fazel, the immediate past president of the RC of Kabul, We talked about the efforts underway to re-construct the club. He definitely wants to help. He may be the only member currently listed on the roster who remains in the new club and the club will be re-constructed only if it appears there is sufficient interest amount those we meet with a couple of weeks ago. We are re-convening later this morning with the same group and with the Logar group to see where we go from here.

Definitely in a wind down mode and looking forward to getting back to the good old USA Sunday evening.

Steve

Nov 5

In Dubai airport now. On Nov 3 had a good meeting with eight individuals committed to make Rotary Club of Kabul work. Three are presently on the roster. Spend a couple of hours working out administrative details. President, President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer were all elected. The club will need a strong mentor club in the US.

Got to the Kabul airport 2 ½ hours before the Ariana flight was scheduled to take off. Good thing since it left 1 ½ hours early. Spent yesterday in Dubai doing some tourist things.

Heading to Munich now. Fary will try to re-rout in Munich to go directly to Washington D. C. to be with her critically ill sister. I will go on to LA to be met by Susan and Rebecca. Will be in transit around 26 hours but looking forward to getting home.

Once home, we need to find three sponsors to each commit \$60 per month for nine months to cover the costs of three of the five female teachers we have added to Jalalabad Rotary School. We have the costs covered for the first two.

That's all for now.

Steve