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# AIRGRAM

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HANDLING INDICATOR UNCLASSIFIED A-172

TO : Department of State *60/N*

FROM : American Embassy, Kabul DATE: November 20, 1969

SUBJECT : Afghan-Communist Chinese Border Protocol

REF : Kabul A-261 of June 15, 1966

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Enclosed is an informal Embassy translation of the Border Protocol concluded between Afghanistan and Communist China in Kabul in March, 1965, together with photostatic copies of the Dari and Pushtu texts of the Protocol which appeared in the September 22, 1966, October 8, 1966 and October 22, 1966 editions of the Official Gazette, a publication of the Afghan Ministry of Justice. A rough translation was made from the Official Gazette and held on file in the Embassy until this time. The Border Protocol described precisely the course of the border between the two countries on the basis of the rough definition given in the Border Treaty signed in Peking on November 22, 1963 which the Embassy translated and forwarded to the Department under cover of the referenced airgram. A photostat of this treaty is also enclosed. Seven detailed maps of the border area, which were appended to the Protocol, were not reproduced in the Official Gazette and are unavailable to the Embassy. The appendix mentioned in Article 3 is also unavailable.

There are two words in the Dari and Pushtu texts of the Protocol which are not ordinarily used in either language and whose meaning is not altogether clear. The first, daban, is defined in the Protocol (Second Article) as meaning kotal and has, therefore, been translated throughout as "pass." In the Embassy translation

- Enclosures: 1. Translation of Border Protocol - *mat*  
 2. Photostat of Dari and Pushtu Texts of Border Protocol  
 3. Photostat of 1963 Border Treaty  
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Action Taken:

Date: Initials:

FORM 10-64 DS-323

Drafted by: POL: CF Dunbar: djm	Drafting Date: 11/15/69	Phone No.: 17	Contents and Classification Approved by: POL - Charles W. Naas
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Clearances: \*4. Film of Enclosure 3 and most of Enclosure 2.

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lation of the Border Treaty, daban was rendered as "cliff." Also, the word ab dara, which is not well known, has been rendered as "river bed."

Finally, the names of places, rivers, mountain peaks, etc. found in the Protocol are esoteric to say the least and their rendition in the English translation represents nothing more than the best guess of the translator. Unlike the translation of the Border Treaty, the Arabic letter qaf has been shown throughout as a "q." In the Border Treaty translation, it was rendered as "k."

LAINGEN

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be the initials 'AWM' or similar, written in a cursive style.

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PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANIS-  
TAN AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONCERNING THE  
BORDER LINE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

Translated from the Official Gazette, a publication of the Afghan  
Ministry of Justice.

Following portion is from Official Gazette Issue #13 (62) of Sombola  
31, 1345 (September 22, 1966):

The Royal Government of Afghanistan and the Government of the  
People's Republic of China, taking into consideration that the joint  
Afghan-Chinese Border Marking Commission had accomplished well  
the work of surveying and constructing border markers in accordance  
with the contents of the Border Treaty between the Royal Government  
of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of China, and in a spirit of  
friendly cooperation, with mutually profitable consultations and with  
understanding and indulgence, <sup>have</sup> delineated and marked the border line  
between the two countries. In the certainty that this matter will  
strengthen the good neighborly relations between the two countries,  
the following Protocol has been signed in accordance with the provisions  
of the Third Article of the Border Treaty between Afghanistan and China.

FIRST PART  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

FIRST ARTICLE: The border line between Afghanistan and China,  
from its southern extremity to the Pavlovshyukofsky Peak (the Quq  
Rash Qul Peak), following surveys on the ground by the two sides in  
line with the provisions of the First Article of the Afghan-Chinese  
Border Treaty, was so marked that the border line be extended along  
the length of the watershed of the Mustagh mountain range. The course  
of the border line between the two countries, in the way that it was  
surveyed and marked by the two sides, is set forth in the Second Part  
of this Protocol in accordance with the Treaty, in greater and more  
accurate detail, and has been shown in the border map between the  
Royal Government of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of China

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which is appended to this Protocol. Henceforth, the exact course of the border line between the two countries will be as shown in this Protocol and in the map appended to it.

SECOND ARTICLE: In order that the border line between the two countries may be clearly marked, the two sides have constructed five border markers in four dabans (passes) which have been numbered serially from one to five.

THIRD ARTICLE: 1. The border markers between Afghanistan and China are made of reinforced concrete. The height of each border marker is 215 centimeters of which 165 centimeters are above the ground and which has an iron rod 1.5 centimeters in diameter and 80 centimeters in length fixed in the center of the surface part.

2. The names of the countries, the serial numbers and the year of erection have been engraved on the surface of the markers. The side facing China has been engraved with the word "China" in Chinese, and below, with the serial number and the year of erection, in Arabic numbers. The side facing Afghanistan has been engraved with the word "Afghanistan" in Farsi, and below, with the serial number and the date of erection, in Farsi numbers.

3. For the dimensions and form of the border markers, see the appendix.

FOURTH ARTICLE: 1. The length of the border line discussed in this Protocol has been measured in horizontal distances on the survey maps (1:50,000). The distances between any two points indicated herein are expressed in direct horizontal distances and subsequently have been shown in such a way that those points have either been measured along the surface of the land or from coordinates taken on the two points involved.

2. The magnetic directions mentioned in this Protocol were obtained on the spot. The true directions were measured through coordinates on the two points fixed on the surface of the land.

3. The heights mentioned in this Protocol are indicated on the attached maps (1:50,000) and the heights have been indicated in

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verticle measurements obtained by on-site survey, and the topography of the hillsides is shown by the curved lines on the map.

## SECOND PART

### THE COURSE OF THE BORDER LINE

FIFTH ARTICLE: The boundary between Afghanistan and China begins at the peak with a height of 5587 (meters),  $37^{\circ} 01' 57'' 4^{*}$  North,  $74^{\circ} 37' 00'' 9^{*}$  East, from the southern extremity of the area where the watersheds between the Tashqurghan, Wakhan and Hanza systems meet, and continues to the summit of Pavlovskyukofsky (the summit of Quq Rash Qul), along the length of the watershed of the Mustagh mountain range between the Qara Chaqrasu River, a tributary of the Tashqurghan River on Chinese soil on one side and the Wakhjir River, the upper reaches of the Wakhan River and tributaries of the upper reaches of the Aqsu River, on Afghan soil on the other side.

The length of the border line is 92.45 kilometers. A detailed description, written on the basis of the 1:50,000 maps appended to this Protocol, has been included in the Sixth through Tenth Articles of this Protocol.

SIXTH ARTICLE: The part of the border line from the peak with a height of 5587 meters  $37^{\circ} 01' 57'' 4^{*}$  North,  $74^{\circ} 37' 00'' 9^{*}$  East, from the southern extremity of the area where the watersheds between the Tashqurghan, Wakhan and Hanza River systems meet at the southern extremity of the Afghanistan-China border line, to Border Marker Number 2 at the Wakhjir Pass (the southern Wakhjir Pass) is 16.54 kilometers and a detailed explanation of the course of this part of the border line is as follows:

Starting from the peak with a height of 5587 meters, the border line runs in a generally northwest direction along the length of the watershed of the Mustagh mountain range, the Ti Ti Jalga riverbed, and the Wakhjir River, tributaries of the Qara Chaqrasu River, on Chinese soil on one side and the Wakhjir River on Afghan soil on the other side. It then passes a peak with a height of 5702 meters and reaches a peak with a height of 5565 meters. Then it turns generally west to a peak with a height of 5585 meters, then turns generally south/a peak with

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a height of 5668 meters. Then it turns generally west to a peak with a height of 5537 meters and reaches a peak with a height of 5567 meters. Then it turns generally north from a height of 4942 meters and reaches Border Marker Number 1 at the Wakhjir Pass (the southern Wakhjir Pass) at the foot of the southern slope of the mountain. The length of this part of the border line is 16.28 kilometers.

Starting from Border Marker Number 1, the border line follows the above-mentioned watershed north with some west, crosses over the caravan route which ran from the Chinese part of Quqtoroq towards the Wakhjir of Afghanistan, turns north with some west and then north with some east, reaches Border Marker Number 2 at the Wakhjir Pass (the southern Wakhjir Pass) at the foot of the northern slope of the mountain. The length of this part of the border line is 26 kilometers. (Translator's note: Must be .26 kilometers)

SEVENTH ARTICLE: The length of the part of the border line from Border Marker Number 2 at the Wakhjir Pass (the southern Wakhjir Pass) to Border Marker Number 3 at the Quqtoroq Pass (the eastern Quqtoroq Pass) is 32.94 kilometers and a detailed explanation of this part of the border line is as follows:

Starting from Border Marker Number 2, the border line runs north with some east along the length of the watershed of the Mustagh mountain range between the Wakhjir River, a tributary of the Qara Chaqrasu River on Chinese soil on one side and the Wakhjir River and the Qara Jalga river valley, a tributary of the upper reaches of the Aqsu River on Afghan soil on the other side until it reaches a peak with a height of 5576 meters. Then it turns generally northwest, passes a peak with a height of 5703 meters and reaches a peak with a height of 5578 meters. Then it runs generally northeast, passes a peak with a height of 5665 meters and reaches the Qara Jalga Pass (the northern Wakhjir Pass). The length of this part of the border is 11.38 kilometers.

Starting from the Qara Jalga Pass (the northern Wakhjir Pass), the border line runs north with some east along the length of the Mustagh mountain range between the Quqtoroq River, a tributary of the Qara Chaqrasu, on Chinese soil on one side and the beds of the Qara Jalga, the Pita Jalga and Arqapchil Rivers, tributaries of the upper reaches of the Aqsu River, on Afghan soil on the other side until it reaches a peak

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with a height of 5005 meters, and then turns in a generally north-westerly direction until it reaches a peak with a height of 5844 meters. Then it runs north with some west to a peak with a height of 5625 meters and then turns in a generally northeasterly direction until it reaches a peak with a height of 5709 meters. After this, it runs in a generally northerly direction and passes a peak with a height of 5716 meters until it reaches a peak with a height of 5710 meters. From here on, it turns east with some north (and) reaches the source of the Arqapchil (the source of the western Quqtoroq). The length of this part of the border line is 11.98 kilometers.

Starting from the Arqapchil Pass (the western Quqtoroq Pass), the border line runs generally east with some north along the length of the Mustagh mountain range between the Quqtoroq River, a tributary of the Qara Chaqrasu River, on Chinese soil on one side and the beds of the Arqapchil and the Quqtoroq Rivers, tributaries of the upper reaches of the Aqsu River, on Afghan soil on the other, passes a peak with a height of 5482 meters until it reaches a peak with a height of 5750 meters. Then it turns in a generally southeasterly direction, passes a peak with a height of 5768 meters, until it reaches a peak with a height of 5685 meters. Then it turns in a northeasterly direction until it reaches Border Marker Number 3 at the Quqtoroq Pass (the eastern Quqtoroq Pass). The length of this part of the border is 9.58 meters.

EIGHTH ARTICLE: The length of the part of the border from Border Marker Number 3 at the Quqtoroq Pass (the eastern Quqtoroq Pass) to Border Marker Number 4 at the Mehman Yuli Pass (the Tuq Mansu Pass) is 21.67 kilometers, and a detailed explanation of this part of the border line is as follows:

Starting from Border Marker Number 3, the border line runs north with some east along the length of the Mustagh mountain range between the Quqtoroq River and the bed of the Qupa Chaq Jalga, tributaries of the Qara Chaqrasu River, on Chinese soil on one side and beds of the Quqtoroq, the Urta Jalga and the Qara Jalga, tributaries of the upper reaches of the Aqsu River, on Afghan soil on the other side up to a peak with a height of 5634 meters, and then east with some south until it

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reaches the summit of a mountain about 55 meters to the northwest of a peak with a height of 5544 meters. From here on it turns north with some east until it reaches a peak with a height of 5645 meters. Then it extends in a southeasterly, and later a southerly, direction until it reaches a peak with a height of 5694 meters. The length of this part of the border line is 10.43 kilometers.

Starting from a peak with a height of 5694 meters, the border line runs in a southeasterly direction along the length/ of the watershed of the Mustagh mountain range between the bed of the Qara Jagdi River and the Tuq Mansu River, tributaries of the Qara Chaqrasu River, on Chinese soil on one side and the beds of the Kur Moqor Jalga, the Kumor Jalga Rivers and the Mehman Yuli River, tributaries of the upper reaches of the Aqsu River, on Afghan soil on the other side until it reaches a peak with a height of 5709 meters. From here on it turns in a generally northeasterly direction from a height of 5196 meters, passes a peak with a height of 5638 meters, until it reaches a peak with a height of 5601 meters. From there it goes in a southerly, and later a northeasterly, direction until it meets Border Marker Number 4 at the Mehman Yuli Pass (the Tuq Mansu Pass). The length of this part of the border is 11.24 kilometers.

NINTH ARTICLE: The length of the part of the border line from Border Marker Number 4 at the Mehman Yuli Pass (the Tuq Mansu Pass) up to Border Marker Number 5 at the source of the Taghar Mansu (the source of the Sareq Tash) is 18.82 kilometers. A detailed explanation of this part of the border line is as follows:

Starting from Border Marker Number 4, the border line runs in an easterly direction along the length/ of the watershed of the Mustagh mountain range between the Tuq Mansu River and the bed of the Sareq Tash River, tributaries of the Qara Chaqrasu River, on Chinese soil on one side and the Mehman Yuli River and the Taghar Mansu River, tributaries of the upper reaches of the Aqsu River, on Afghan soil on the other side until it reaches a peak with a height of 5475 meters, and after that, it runs in a generally southeasterly direction and passes peaks with heights of 5496 meters, 5397 meters and 5520 meters, in that order, and reaches a peak with a height of 5445 meters. Then it runs

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east with some north, passes peaks with heights of 5515 meters and 5445 meters, in that order, until it reaches Border Marker Number 5 at the Taghar Mansu Pass (the Sareq Tash Pass).

TENTH ARTICLE: The length of the part of the border line from Border Marker 5 at the Taghar Mansu Pass (the Sareq Tash Pass) up to Pavlovshyukofsky (the Quq Rash Qul Peak) is 2.48 kilometers. A detailed explanation of this part of the border line is as follows:

Starting from Border Marker Number 5, the border line runs in an easterly direction along the length/ <sup>of the watershed</sup> of the Mustagh mountain range between the bed of the Sareq Tash River, a tributary of the Qara Cnaqrasu River, on Chinese soil on one side and the Taghar Mansu River, a tributary of the upper reaches of the Aqsu River, on Afghan soil on the other side until it reaches a peak with a height of 5564 meters, and from here on it turns in a northerly direction towards Pavlovshyukofsky (the Quq Rash Qul peak) at the height of 5554 meters.

Note:

Following portion is from the Official Gazette Issue #14 (63) of Mizan 16, 1345 (October 8, 1966):

“2”

### THIRD PART LOCATION OF BORDER MARKERS

ELEVENTH ARTICLE: Border Marker Number 1 is located on the border line in the Wakhjir Pass (the southern Wakhjir Pass) at the foot of the southern slope of the mountain at coordinates  $37^{\circ} 05' 04''$  North and  $74^{\circ} 29' 12''$  East at an altitude of 4861 meters.

An identifying marker exists on the soil of the two parties. On Chinese soil, there is a separate boulder in the magnetic direction of  $32^{\circ} 28'$  at a distance of 130 meters, on Afghan soil, there is another separate boulder in a magnetic direction of  $176^{\circ} 35'$  at a distance of 71 meters. The above magnetic directions and distances were all measured on the ground.

The true direction from Border Marker Number 1 to the peak with a height of 5587 meters is  $135^{\circ} 37' 45''$  and the distance between them

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is 10.21 kilometers. This was calculated from coordinates taken on the ground in the area.

Border Marker Number 2 is located on the border line in the Wakhjir Pass (the southern Wakhjir Pass) at the foot of the northern slope of the mountain at coordinates  $37^{\circ} 16' 01''$  North and  $74^{\circ} 29' 13''$  East at a height of 4865 meters.

An identifying marker exists on the soil of the two parties. On Chinese soil, there is another separate boulder in a magnetic direction of  $153^{\circ} 49'$  and at a distance of 108 meters. On Afghan soil, there is another separate boulder in a magnetic direction of  $336^{\circ} 11'$  and at a distance of 56 meters. The above magnetic directions and distances were all measured on the ground. The true direction from Border Marker Number 2 to Border Marker Number 1 is  $183^{\circ} 21' 02''$  and the distance between them is 0.21 kilometers. This was calculated from coordinates taken on the ground in the area.

Border Marker Number 3 is located on the border line in the Quqtoroq Pass (the eastern Quqtoroq Pass) at coordinates  $37^{\circ} 14' 25''$  North and  $74^{\circ} 35' 17''$  East at a height of 5246 meters. Identifying markers exist on the soil of both sides. On Chinese soil, there is a tower made of stones in whose base an iron rod has been fixed and which are piled on one another, having a magnetic direction of  $142^{\circ} 06'$  and a distance of 360 meters. On Afghan soil, there is a boulder, in a magnetic direction of  $318^{\circ} 47'$  and at a distance of 287 meters, on which a plus sign (+) has been carved.

The true direction from Border Marker Number 3 to Border Marker Number 2 is  $210^{\circ} 06' 51''$  and the distance between them is 17.96 kilometers. This was calculated from coordinates taken on the ground in the area.

Border Marker Number 4 is located on the border line in the Mehman Yuli Pass (the Tuq Mansu Pass) at coordinates  $37^{\circ} 17' 11''$  North and  $74^{\circ} 44' 10''$  East at a height of 4959 meters.

An identifying marker exists on the soil of the two sides. On Chinese soil, there is a tower made of stones in whose base an iron rod has

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has been fixed and which are piled on one another, having a magnetic direction of  $225^{\circ} 22'$  and a distance of 113 meters. On Afghan soil, there is a tower made of stones in whose base an iron rod has been fixed and which are piled one on another, having a magnetic direction of  $296^{\circ} 45'$  and a distance of 102 meters.

The true direction from Border Marker Number 4 to Border Marker Number 3 is  $248^{\circ} 47' 59''$  and the distance between is 14.09 kilometers. This was calculated from coordinates taken on the ground in the area. Border Marker Number 5 is located on the border line in the Taghar Mansu Pass (the Sareq Tash Pass) at coordinates  $37^{\circ} 13' 25''$  North and  $74^{\circ} 52' 45''$  East at a height of 5210 meters.

An identifying marker exists on the soil of the two sides. On Chinese soil there is a tower made of stones in whose base an iron rod has been fixed and which are piled one on another, having a magnetic direction of  $179^{\circ} 00'$  and a distance of 103 meters. On Afghan soil there is a tower made of stones in whose base an iron rod has been fixed and which are piled one on another, having a magnetic direction of  $308^{\circ} 00'$  and a distance of 557 meters.

The true direction from Border Marker Number 5 to Border Marker Number 4 is  $298^{\circ} 47' 26''$  and the distance between them is 14.47 kilometers. This was calculated from coordinates taken on the ground in the area.

Note:  
 Following portion is from the Official Gazette Number 15 (64) of Mizan 30, 1345 (October 22, 1966):

“3”

FOURTH PART  
 THE MAINTENANCE AND SUPERVISION OF THE  
 BORDER LINE AND THE BORDER MARKERS

TWELFTH ARTICLE: The two parties to the treaty will maintain and supervise the border markers and will take the measures necessary for preventing their displacement, damage to them or their disappearance.

Neither party may unilaterally set up a new border marker or signs which in any other way serve to identify the border.

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THIRTEENTH ARTICLE: 1. In order effectively to maintain and supervise the border markers, the two parties agree that the border markers from Number 1 to Number 5 shall be jointly maintained and supervised by the two parties.

2. In the event that either of the two parties should discover that one of the border markers has been displaced, damaged, or has disappeared, it must at the earliest possible opportunity inform the other party in writing, and the two parties should earnestly discuss and decide the matter of reestablishing the border marker in its original location according to original specifications. Whenever a border marker which, for natural reasons, has been displaced, damaged, or has disappeared, cannot be relocated, repaired or rebuilt in its original location and state, it may be rebuilt in another suitable location which has been fixed by an understanding between the two parties, on the condition that the border line should not be changed as a result of this action.

3. The two parties will prepare joint notes concerning the restoration of a border marker in its original condition, its repair or its rebuilding. When a border marker is set up in the place newly fixed for it, the two parties will sign documents (showing) the location of the new border marker in the manner set forth in the Third Part of this Protocol and will prepare which show the location of the new border marker. The documents and maps just mentioned will become appendices to this Protocol when signed by the two parties.

FOURTEENTH ARTICLE: The two parties to the Treaty must preserve from displacement, damage or disappearance the identifying markers which, according to the provisions of the Third Part of this Protocol, show the location of the border markers.

FIFTEENTH ARTICLE: After the entry into force of this Protocol, the two parties to the Treaty will conduct a joint border inspection every ten years. But, if the two parties agree, the inspection just mentioned may be postponed or may be carried out jointly only on some border sections. The two parties may carry out joint inspections of some border sections at a time suggested by one and agreed to by the other during the course of the period just mentioned. During the inspection period, the two parties, in accordance with the provisions of the Thirteenth Article of this Protocol, may consult

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together and take decisions on changes which they deem necessary. After each inspection, joint notes will be prepared and each party will retain a copy of it.

SIXTEENTH ARTICLE: The two parties to the Treaty agree that whenever contact or an understanding on matters relating to the provisions of the Fourth Part of this Protocol becomes necessary, this action will be taken by officials appointed by the two sides for this purpose.

FIFTH PART  
CONCLUDING ARTICLES

SEVENTEENTH ARTICLE: The course of the border line and the location of the border markers has been shown, as explained in this Protocol, on the appended maps of the border between the Royal Government of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of China.

The appended maps have been printed in Farsi and Chinese -- Chinese and Farsi copies and are of the same origin. Each copy consists of one map sheet at a scale of 1:200,000, four map sheets at a scale of 1:50,000, and four maps, of two sheets, of the location of the border markers at a scale of 1:25,000.

EIGHTEENTH ARTICLE: This Protocol enters into force from the day of its signature. On the basis of the Third Article of the Border Treaty between the Royal Government of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of China, which was signed on November 22, 1963, this Protocol, after coming into force, becomes an appendix to the Treaty and the border maps between the Royal Government of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of China, which are appendices to this Protocol, will take the place of the maps which are appendices to the Treaty.

This Protocol has been prepared in Kabul on the Fourth of Hamal, 1344 A. H., corresponding to the Twenty-fourth of March, 1965 A. D., in two copies in the Farsi, Chinese and English languages and all three texts have equal validity.

The Representative of the Royal  
Government of Afghanistan

The Representative of the  
People's Republic of China

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