On November 23, 1966, the INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA), an affiliate of the WORLD BANK, extended a credit equivalent to $3.5 million to the Kingdom of Afghanistan to help finance the construction and equipment of seven vocational schools at the secondary level. This is the first operation in Afghanistan by one of the WORLD BANK group. The new schools will increase Afghanistan's facilities for training teachers and agricultural and industrial technicians, and so provide qualified manpower essential to the country's economic and social development.

The seven schools to be built are an academy for training teacher educators and a technical teacher-training school in Kabul, the capital; an agricultural, an electro-mechanical and a teacher-training school in Kunduz in northern Afghanistan; an agricultural and an electro-mechanical school in Herat in western Afghanistan.

The project is part of the current five-year program of the Ministry of Education and will contribute significantly to the educational development plans of the Government.

Among those present at the signing of the Credit Agreement were, from left to right: His Excellency Dr. Abdul Majid, Ambassador of Afghanistan, and Mr. George D. Woods, President of IDA.

Photo: Edwin G. Huffman for IDA.