On June 26, 1969, the International Development Association (IDA) made a $5 million credit for road maintenance in Afghanistan. The long-range objective of this project is the establishment of a road maintenance organization trained and equipped to assume responsibility for effectively maintaining the entire highway network in Afghanistan. A technical assistance grant of about $1.7 million from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is expected to complement the credit.

Highways are the principal means of transportation in Afghanistan, both for domestic and international traffic. In the past 10 years the highway network has been expanded from about 6,000 miles to 11,000 miles. This includes a primary system of about 1,300 miles of paved roads designed and built with financing from the USSR and the USA. It connects important population, agricultural, and industrial centers to Kabul, and has branches leading to neighboring countries.

Among those present at the signing of the credit documents were, from left to right: Mr. Mohammad Akbar, Charge d’Affaires, Embassy of Afghanistan; and Mr. J. Burke Knapp, Vice President of IDA.

Photo: Edwin G. Huffman for IDA.