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The INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA), an affiliate of the WORLD BANK, made a credit of $11.5 million equivalent to Afghanistan to help improve and maintain 2,480 miles of roads essential to the country's economic development.

The project being assisted by the IDA credit was identified and prepared with financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme, with the WORLD BANK as executing agency. It is the second credit for highways in Afghanistan. A credit of $5 million, extended in 1969, is financing the purchase of highway maintenance and workshop equipment, vehicles, spare parts, tools and materials for road maintenance in eastern Afghanistan. The present credit will continue the road improvement and maintenance program in eastern Afghanistan and will extend the program to cover the western and southern regions. Improvement of these roads is essential to Afghanistan's development efforts in other key economic sectors.

Among those present at the signing of the credit documents on December 21, 1973, were, from left to right: Mr. K. Gyasi-Twum, Alternate Executive Director of IDA for Afghanistan; His Excellency Abdullah Malikyar, Ambassador of Afghanistan to the United States; and Mr. Munir P. Benjenk, Regional Vice President of IDA.

Photo: Edwin G. Huffman for IDA.