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Sub-Fonds: Records of President Robert S. McNamara

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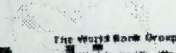


THE WORLD BANK  
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The World Bank  
1818 H Street NW  
Washington DC 20433  
Telephone: 202-473-1000  
Internet: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

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Contacts with member countries: Aga Khan - Correspondence 01

Folder 1

A1993-012 #1

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AGA KHAN

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Robert S. McNamara

FROM: Moeen A. Qureshi *MAQ*

SUBJECT: H. H. The Aga Khan IV

DATE: November 22, 1978

11/22

His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan is the fourth "Imam" or Head of the Ismaili Sect, a small but well organized sect of the Moslem community which has its adherents mainly in India, East Africa and Pakistan, although there is a scattering of Ismailis in a number of other Muslim countries (e.g. Syria, Iran and North Africa). Karim Aga Khan succeeded to the "Imamate" in 1957; he was the personal choice of his grandfather, H.H. Aga Khan III. His grandfather was a major force in the Indian political movement and a strong supporter of Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. The title of His Highness was conferred upon him by the British Government and he was also designated a Prince by the Iranian Government. Prince Karim's father was Prince Aly Khan, and Prince Sadruddin Khan (who was the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees for an extended period) is his uncle.

The present Aga Khan was born in 1936 and was educated in Switzerland and at Harvard University where he also attended the business school.

The Aga Khan has made two investments in the field of tourism with IFC in East Africa and, more recently, has participated in the establishment of the Housing Development Finance Corporation in India. He is now discussing with us the establishment of a promotionally-oriented development institution in Bangladesh as well as possible investments in Turkey, Egypt and East Africa.

The present Aga Khan is a very able person. He is well trained, has good business sense and is politically quite astute. He has been able to develop the image of a statesman who keeps his religious responsibilities and functions very much apart from his political and business relationships. He maintains close ties with governments and countries with Moslem populations. He is personally close to the Shah of Iran. More recently, he visited Bangladesh and Pakistan, where he has an extensive involvement in philanthropic activities. He is a good judge of political events, knows the heads of governments of a large number of countries personally. You may wish to ask for his views on developments in the South Asian/Iran region.

MAQureshi:sav

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Meeting with H.H. The Aga Khan, November 22, 1978

Present: Mr. McNamara, H.H. The Aga Khan, Mr. Qureshi

His Highness commented on the situation in South Asia. In the case of Iran, he thought that the Shah would probably be able to get the situation under control; there was no monolithic discontent and the recent riots were being carried out by embittered vested interest groups. The looting in the streets reminded him of May 1968 in Paris. In the case of Pakistan, the preferred solution to the Bhutto problem appeared to be to expel Bhutto from Pakistan but to execute his sentence if he returned. The economy was totally stagnant. There was much more Soviet involvement in the case of Pakistan and Iran than the Western World was aware of. The Soviets would undoubtedly not hesitate to take over Iran. Chinese influence in northern Pakistan was very strong. In the case of Bangladesh, President Zia's platform was "a marriage of convenience." The President knew where he wanted to go and he talked facts not theory. Mr. McNamara agreed. The Bank could presently work with Bangladesh but not with Pakistan. His Highness said that, in the case of Tanzania, the Government had now adopted a practical approach that was more responsive to external advice. Finally, he thanked Mr. Qureshi for the very practical approach IFC had taken in recent years. IFC had a much better understanding of political factors than 15 years ago, and made efficient use of resources.

CKW  
November 28, 1978