

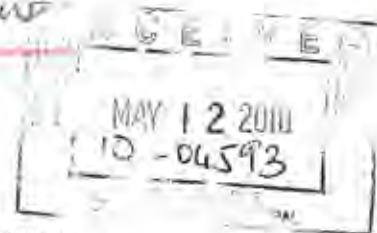
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Note to the Chef de Cabinet

Sha Zukang's meeting with
H.E. Mr. Akil Akilov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan

Please find attached a note of my meeting with His Excellency, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan. The topic of the meeting was the High-level International Conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan as mandated in the GA resolution on the Mid-Term Review of the "Water for Life" Decade (A/RES/64/198).

I would appreciate if you would bring this to the Secretary-General's attention for his information.

沙祖康

Sha Zukang
10 May 2010

cc: Deputy Secretary-General
Deputy Chef de Cabinet
Mr. Robert Orr

Note for the File

**Mr. Sha's meeting with H.E. Mr. Akil Akilov, Prime Minister of the Republic of
Tajikistan**

Monday, 22 March 2010 at 11:00am

Topic: High-Level International Conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan as mandated in the GA resolution on the Mid-Term Review of the "Water for Life" Decade (A/RES/64/198).

The Prime Minister spoke at length of the transboundary tensions his country faces with its neighbor Uzbekistan, which are connected with energy and water. The main issue at stake is the construction of the Rogun hydroelectric dam upriver in Tajikistan on the Amu Darya River, whose flow volume downstream is vital for Uzbekistan's cotton crop, a major export.

Under the agreements of the Soviet era, Uzbekistan used to provide energy to Tajikistan in exchange for its water. These agreements have been progressively eroded and are not being adhered to. Deprived of energy, Tajikistan has decided to revive the Rogun dam project, whose blueprints date back to the Soviet era. Uzbekistan has sought to pressure Tajikistan by blocking humanitarian truck shipments and has planted landmines on the border. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have agreed to abide by the outcomes of an environmental impact assessment of the Rogun dam project to be undertaken shortly by the World Bank.

The Prime Minister recognized that the United Nations office in Central Asia, located in Ashgabat, and the SRSB and DPA are all aware of this crisis and are engaged in promoting talks between the two parties. He felt however that much more needed to be done to resolve the issue.

The Prime Minister, therefore, was appealing more broadly to the United Nations system as a whole to come to the aid of Tajikistan. The High Level International Conference on water for life in Dushanbe scheduled for 8-11 June, 2010, serves an important political purpose from the Tajikistan point of view by projecting the country as a responsible steward of water resources, committed to international norms governing the management of water. The Prime Minister indicated that cotton growing countries needed to adopt strategies and techniques for more water-efficient cultivation of the crop, so as to diminish water use, which currently was quite wasteful.

USG Sha thanked the Prime Minister for his candid remarks and said that he would be representing the Secretary-General at the Dushanbe conference, which would also be attended by other senior officials of the United Nations including the two Executive Secretaries of the respective Regional commissions, and SRSB Jenca. It was Mr. Sha's understanding that there would be meetings among the Central Asian countries on the margins of the conference to address the transboundary water and energy issues, to which a roundtable in the main conference was also dedicated.

Mr. Sha recalled that UNDESA, along with other partner entities of UN-Water, were assisting the government of Tajikistan through technical cooperation. In Dushanbe, following the initial support provided to the government by the senior expert Victor Badaker, another UNDESA expert Phillippe Elghouayel would soon be arriving in Dushanbe to assist the government with the conference and would stay through its conclusion. Mr. Sha also urged Tajikistan to seek additional financial assistance from major bilateral donors, including those of the region. The U.N. Resident Coordinator in Dushanbe, Mr. Michael Jones, was assisting the government in keeping track of contributions from both bilateral and multilateral sources for the conference.