

American Educators Help Bring Afghan's System Up to Standards

By **FREDERICK H. TREESH**
United Press International
New York — (UPI) — Uncle Sam dangles out foreign aid money for a multitude of purposes, but perhaps few hold the promise of such rich reward to their recipients as the funds underwriting the work of a group of 35 American educators in Afghanistan.

In that backward, landlocked, mountainous land south of Russia and bracket-

ed by Iran and Pakistan, a project group from Teachers college at Columbia university is undertaking a giant task: Helping to bring the Afghans' primitive educational system up to 20th century standards. Success or failure may well hold the key to the remote country's role in the future world.

Afghanistan is a place where roads and communication facilities are sparse. Communication, in fact, is largely word of mouth. The literacy rate in only 5 per cent and, in a country of 12 million, only something over 200,000 children are in school; only 20,000 above the sixth grade.

The Teachers college group, headed by Dr. John W. Polley, is attacking the problem in two principal ways: Educating Afghan teachers and helping them prepare modern teaching materials. A number of Americans also are teaching English, the official second language of Afghanistan despite its proximity to Russia.

With financial backing of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) and working with the Afghan government, the eight-year-old Columbia project has trained directly 1,000 Afghan teachers. Another 7,000 have taken brief courses.

The Americans worked, for the most part, in the main university in Kabul, the capital city of 300,000 persons, but recently aided in the establishment of three additional teacher training facilities.

Great Deal of Progress
Although even today there are less than 500 teachers with the educational equivalent of the average American classroom instructor, Dr. Polley is en-

couraged and hopeful for continued progress.

"The Afghanistan project is at the point that in the next five years there will be a great deal of progress," the school administration specialist said on a visit here to report on the project and recruit personnel. "There will be a core of teachers who can carry on the work only we could do two years ago."

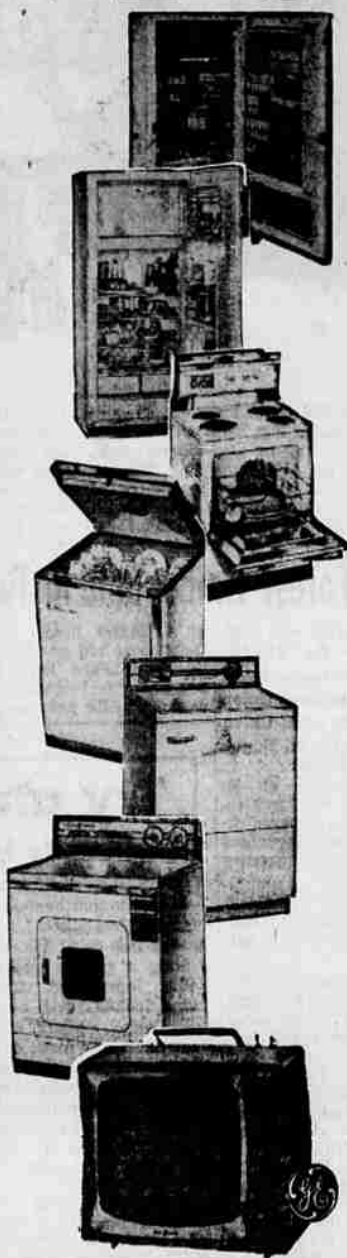
Each American in the project group works with two Afghan "counterparts," Dr. Polley said. They learn from the American teaching methods and how to write books and materials.

Such collaboration has resulted, among other things, in the preparation of a complete secondary school science series, additional texts in biology and physics and an English program for grades 7 through 12.

Dr. Polley expects there will be in the years ahead a multiplying effect in the work his group is doing as American-trained teachers train others and an increasing number of Afghans go abroad for study.

"I can see where we might be out of a job in about five years," he said. "If we could get a dozen or so (Afghan) persons in education with a year or so beyond the master's degree, several with master's degrees in English and a couple with doctorates, then we could turn it over to them."

Dr. Polley will return next fall to the Teachers college faculty here after a two-year tour as head of the Afghan project. His successor is as yet unnamed. The professor, his wife and 17-year-old daughter have resided in Kabul, although the daughter this year is attending school in Beirut, Lebanon.



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On the Air

By ELEANOR WIESE

"British Socialized Medicine," a study of Great Britain's approach to the controversial problem of providing medical care for the people of a nation, will be presented today as an "NBC White Paper" at 10 p.m. on KMED-TV.

Chet Huntley, narrator of the film report, explains in the introduction: "The British National Health Service has become very much a part of the increasingly emotional discussions about medical care in the United States. Sometimes it has been defended; more often, attacked—yet few Americans really understand what it is or how it works. . . . Our purpose is not to determine whether the British system is better than ours or worse, but to examine it on its own terms—to see how another country . . . has tried in its own way to meet the universal problem of satisfying the health needs of its people."

The program shows some of the functions of the local health authority, which maintains ambulance service, operates clinics, provides home assistance and supervises preventive medicine and health education.

The telecast also examines Britain's hospital service, the services provided by general practitioners, the relationship of specialists to the Health Service, how the British people feel about their medical care, and the attitudes of doctors toward some of the fundamental issues involved in the Health Service.

CONCERT HALL, 2 p.m. Sunday K-SHA radio. Robert Owen performs on the carillon of Westminster; Saint Saens' Symphony No. 3; Beethoven's "Paisano" concerto; Schubert's 9th Symphony.

SPORTS SPECTACULAR, 2:30 p.m. Sunday KBES-TV. Expert outdoor sportsman Lee Wolff takes viewers duck hunting in Canada, fresh-water shark fishing in Nicaragua, tarpon fishing off the Florida Keys and cod fishing in Norway.

WILD KINGDOM, 3:30 p.m. Sunday KMED-TV. This episode explores undersea life in the Bimini reefs. Dr. Perry Gilbert, chairman of the American Shark Panel, is interviewed.

TWENTIETH CENTURY, 6 p.m. Sunday KBES-TV. "Ethiopia: The Lion and the Cross," a special report on the country and its 71-year-old ruler, Emperor Haile Selassie (first of two parts). Today's segment covers Ethiopia's form of direct democracy, the educational system, the work by members of the 300-man U.S. Peace Corps in the 90 per cent illiterate country, and the deep contrasts between rich and poor, old and new.

MEET THE PRESS, 6 p.m. Sunday KMED-TV. King Hassan II of Morocco will be interviewed by Benjamin Bradlee of Newsweek and Marquis Childs of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. King Hassan, who ascended the throne in 1961, is one of the leaders of emergent Africa.

DISNEY'S WORLD, 7:30 p.m. Sunday KMED-TV. "Stormy the Thoroughbred" tells the story of an undersized race horse who develops into a top polo pony.

STARLIGHT CONCERT, 8 p.m. Sunday KBOY-FM radio. Aaron Copeland's "Appalachian Spring"; "Daphne and Chloe" performed by the Boston Symphony and the New England Conservatory orchestra. At 9:30 p.m. the first of a 13-week series of concert music by the Dutch Symphony Orchestra on Radio Netherland will be presented.

G.E. TRUE, 9:30 p.m. Sunday KBES-TV. "The Tenth Mona Lisa," the story of the plot in 1911 to steal the famed Mona Lisa painting from the Louvre in Paris.

WINSTON CHURCHILL, 6:30 p.m. Monday KMED-TV. The conference of the Big Three at Yalta early in 1945 is reviewed.

MONDAY MOVIE, 7:30 p.m. Monday KMED-TV. Olivia de Havilland and Richard Burton star in "My Cousin Rachel," a suspense drama based on a Daphne du Maurier novel.

WORLD OF DARRYL F. ZANUCK, 8:30 p.m. Tuesday KMED-TV. Zanuck, one of Hollywood's most colorful producers for the past 36 years, has made available film from his private collection to provide a portrait of Hollywood and the changing motion picture industry from the 1920s to the present.

RED SKELTON, 8:30 p.m. Tuesday KBES-TV. Guest star Ginger Rogers illustrates 11 of history's popular dances.

DICK POWELL THEATRE, 9:30 p.m. Tuesday KMED-TV. Lee Marvin and Ricardo Montalban star in "Epilogue," a suspense drama about a World War II Marine who can't forget that he was trained to kill.

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