



EMBASSY OF AFGHANISTAN

May 3, 2002

Mr. Stephen Moseley
President
Academy for Educational Development
1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Moseley:

I want to express my admiration and appreciation for the magnificent effort made by the Academy for Educational Development to prepare and distribute 40,000 school backpacks equipped with school supplies to Afghan refugee children.

When I saw the photos taken of the children receiving the kits, I could see the delight and curiosity on their faces. I particularly liked the photos showing the children pulling out the supplies, such as the black board and chalk, and starting to use them on the spot.

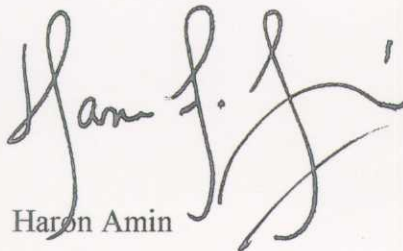
I was delighted to receive one of the backpacks from you. As I went through the individual items in the pack I was amazed at the work and the expense that the Academy took on to make the denim backpacks and assemble all the various items – black boards and chalk, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, notebooks, and a toy for each child. Some of the items reminded me very much of my own schooldays in Kabul. It was fitting that First Lady Laura Bush showed one of the backpacks during her speech in March to the United Nations as an example of what can be done for Afghan children. We mirror her words “this worthy project deserves your support.”

The sad fact is, however, that there are many hundreds of thousands more children in refugee camps and inside Afghanistan who need similar backpacks to help them get started in school. I know that the Academy is more than aware of this need and that your next goal is to try and raise the funds to produce 200,000 additional backpacks to distribute inside Afghanistan early this fall and to support the rebuilding of the educational system.

I would like to assist the Academy in any way that I can in its effort to raise funds for the preparation of 200,000 school backpacks (and more if funds are available). Each backpack in itself is not an expensive item, but I know that in order to supply so many backpacks you will need to raise more than two million dollars at \$10 per backpack. I want you to know that you have the complete support of the Embassy of Afghanistan and Afghanistan's leadership in this endeavor.

Thank you for AED's efforts on behalf of the Afghan people.

Sincerely,



Haron Amin
Charge d' Affaires

