
Appendix B

MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES
DURING THE COMMISSION'S WORK

The records of the Commission contain copies of the agendas and the papers distributed for each meeting. Detailed minutes of the first four full meetings of the Commission and of other meetings are included in these records. Only brief indications of the subjects of meetings are given in this appendix. Some of the papers prepared for the Commission or brought to its attention are listed in Appendix C.

1 *Full meetings of the Commission*

(a) First meeting - October 24 and 25, 1992 in Washington.

Attended by :

His Highness the Aga Khan

All members of the Commission and regular observers.

After introductory remarks by the Chairman, His Highness the Aga Khan addressed the Commission. The agenda paper traced the background in the Harvard Report and other documents, and the discussion that followed concentrated on three themes :

i) AKU as a Muslim university serving the Muslim world.

ii) AKU as a "problem-oriented" university.

iii) AKU as an international university.

The discussions also brought forth several proposals on AKU's future structure :

i) Models for AKU

ii) Matters of finance and governance

(b) Second meeting - February 18 and 19, 1993 in Karachi.

Attended by all members of the Commission (except for Mme. Fatima Mernissi) and regular observers. Dr. Robert Buchanan, as Chairman of the Medical Centre Committee, joined for part of the meeting. Members of the Commission met faculty and familiarised themselves with the Medical Centre, AKHS, AKES and IED. They also visited a squatter settlement.

The principal topics discussed were :

- i) The conclusions of the Medical Centre Committee.
- ii) Implications of the present character of the Faculty of Health Sciences and the MCC recommendations for AKU's future development.
- iii) IED and its possible implications for AKU's character and future.
- iv) The potential of AKU in the generic problems of development.

(c) Third meeting - May 22 and 23, 1993, Endicott House, Dedham, Massachusetts.

Attended by :

His Highness the Aga Khan

All members of the Commission (except Mme. Fatima Mernissi) and regular observers.

The following were invited to participate :

John de Monchaux, General Manager, Aga Khan Trust for Culture

William Porter, Professor of Architecture, MIT

Barbro Ek, Director, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture

Nasser Rabbat, Associate Professor, Architecture, MIT

The main subjects of background papers and the discussions were :

- i) Architecture, planning of urban and rural areas, and related subjects; AKU's potential engagements with these subjects, particularly in the Muslim world.
- ii) Rural development and management; a possible Institute of Nursing Studies in Kenya "under the aegis of AKU"; education; and the governance of AKU.

(d) Fourth meeting-September 13-15, 1993 at the Ismaili Centre in London.

All the members of the Commission and observers attended. Aziz Esmail, Dean of the Institute of Ismaili Studies, Professor Edward Keenan of Harvard University and John de Monchaux were invited to participate.

The principal subjects discussed were :

- i) The missions of AKU.
- ii) Possible strategies for AKU in improving the understanding and perception of Islam and Muslim societies.
- iii) Strategies for AKU aimed toward improved governance (and development) of Muslim societies.
- iv) AKU governance and management.

(e) Fifth meeting - February 17-19, 1994 in New York City.

Attended by all members of the Commission (except for Mme. Fatima Mernissi) and the observers. After stocktaking as to where the Commission stood, the discussion that followed centred on :

- i) Humanities and Islamic studies;
- ii) AKU's potentials in improving governance of Muslim societies;
- iii) Economic development;
- iv) Architecture and development;
- v) Science in AKU;
- vi) AKU's governance and finance;
- vii) Outline of final report of the Commission.

(f) Sixth meeting - May 29-31, 1994 at the Aga Khan University Medical Centre in Karachi.

All the members attended except for Vartan Gregorian and Mme. Fatima Mernissi. The observers included John Dirks this time. A first draft of the final report was the principal subject of the meeting. A paper by David Bell on "Economic Development and AKU" was also presented. A morning was set aside for the Commission to meet with faculty and staff.

(g) Seventh meeting - September 23-25, 1994 at Aiglemont

His Highness the Aga Khan participated on September 24. Vartan Gregorian participated only on September 24 and Mme. Fatima Mernissi was absent. Otherwise, all members of the Commission and regular observers were present. The meeting was devoted to general and detailed discussion of a draft final report and its possible distribution.

2 *Smaller meetings of Commission members*

August 17, 1993, New York City, Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, Vartan Gregorian, Fraser Mustard and Francis Sutton on organisation of the future AKU.

June 20 and 21, 1994, New York City, without Sharom Ahmat, Vartan Gregorian and Mme. Fatima Mernissi; of the observers only Shamsh Kassim-Lakha was present. On organisation and finance.

July 22 and 23, 1994 in Aiglemont and Paris, without Sharom Ahmat, Vartan Gregorian and Mme. Fatima Mernissi; of the observers, Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, John Dirks and David Fraser (part-time). On priorities and finance.

3 *Meetings of Commission members with AKU faculty and staff*

February 16, 1993 : Vartan Gregorian, Sharom Ahmat and Francis Sutton in Karachi.

November 20, 1993 after the Convocation of that date, Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, Francis Sutton, with Shamsh Kassim-Lakha and Guillaume de Spoelberch.

May 29, 1994 full Commission, except for Vartan Gregorian and Mme. Fatima Mernissi.

4 *Report to Board of Trustees*

March 30, 1994 in Aiglemont

5 *Activities and inquiries of the Secretary-Member*

The appointment in April 1992 of the Commission Chairman as Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for the Western Sahara made possible frequent meetings between the Secretary and Chairman in New York City, which greatly facilitated the planning of the meetings and the Commission's work generally.

1992

September 14-15, visit to Aiglemont for study of files.

October 8-12, observation of Board of Trustees and Hospital Committee meetings, Aiglemont.

October 13-17, visit to Karachi, meetings with AKUMC faculty and staff, Hospital Board, AKES,P and AKHS,P officials.

1993

April 8, discussion with Alberta Arthurs and Clifford Chanin, on Rockefeller Foundation civil society project and collaboration with AKTC on the Muslim world.

April 25-28, participation in external review of Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard and MIT (AKPIA).

May 18, meeting with Oleg Grabar on AKPIA, Islamic art and architecture, etc.

June 17, meeting with Mahnaz Ispahani, Ford Foundation officer, on Islam and world affairs.

June 30, meetings with Prof. Richard Frye on Central Asia, and Prof. Edward Keenan, to invite the latter to the London meeting of the Commission, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

September 8, Paris, meeting with Mohamed Bennouna, Director of the Institut du Monde Arabe.

September 22, New York, meeting with W. Bader, Director Eurasia Foundation.

November 8, Cambridge, Massachusetts, meeting with Prof. Keenan on humanities in AKU, etc.

November 15-18, Geneva, visits with staff at AKF and AKTC.

November 23, London, visit to IIS and meeting with Dr. Aziz Esmail.

1994

March 31, Aiglemont, study of files and reports.

April 1, Paris, visits to UNESCO and Institut du Monde Arabe for documents.

June 1-4, visit to Nairobi.

September 2, New York, meeting with John Dirks.

Mr. Sutton's participation in the Council on Foreign Relations also provided related activity and background information. He was a member of an advisory group on a proposed Council programme on Islamic movements and U.S. foreign policy. General meetings of the Council provided opportunities to hear Prime Minister Mahatir, Mohamed Mohadessian of the Iranian opposition, A. A. Samadov, Prime Minister, Tajikistan, and others.