
Overview of the Said Hyder Akbar sound recordings

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Processed by:

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Machine-readable finding aid created derived from MARC record by Aileen Shon.

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Collection Summary

Title: Said Hyder Akbar sound recordings,

Dates: 2002-2003

Collection Number: 2008C35

Creator: Akbar, Said Hyder, collector

Collection Size: 1 manuscript box(0.4 linear feet)(17 cassettes and 25 MiniDiscs)

Repository: Hoover Institution Archives

Stanford, California 94305-6010

Abstract: Sound recordings relating to conditions in Afghanistan.

Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives

Languages: EnglishPushto; Pashto

Access

Collection is open for research.

Use copies of some sound recordings, video recordings, or motion picture material in this collection are available for immediate access. Access to other sound recordings, video recordings, or motion picture material requires at least two weeks advance notice. For further information, please contact the Hoover Institution Archives.

Publication Rights

For copyright status, please contact the Hoover Institution Archives.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Said Hyder Akbar sound recordings, [Box number], Hoover Institution Archives.

Acquisition Information

Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 2008.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog Socrates at <http://library.stanford.edu/webcat> . Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in Socrates is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.

Scope and Content of Collection

These sound recordings, which relate to conditions in Afghanistan, were created by Akbar during his trips to Afghanistan. The cassettes were generated from his first trip in summer 2002, and the MiniDiscs came from his following trip, in 2003. The recordings of both trips were the basis for successive radio documentaries on Ira Glass's "This American Life" (Chicago Public Radio).

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Afghanistan--History--2001-

Phonotapes.

Narration describing Afghanistan in Spring 2002 2002 May - June

Scope and Content Note

Akbar narrates his travels from Pakistan, through the Khyber Pass, and into Jalalabad and Kabul. He describes various aspects of the area, including, but not limited to, the chaotic driving environment, post-conflict devastation, marketplaces, the reaction of locals to seeing someone with a microphone, interactions with family and important family friends, the hotel in Kabul, and his personal trip from San Francisco to Afghanistan. Throughout, Akbar is interested in recording ambient noises. The sound quality is good, but there is significant background noise throughout. Though Akbar narrates in English, he often interacts with locals in the native language. Label reads: Tape #1 Peshawar - Kabul

Sound recording of commentary describing Afghanistan in Spring 2002 2002 June

Scope and Content Note

Side B describes Akbar's family friends before recounting the trip from Pakistan to Afghanistan through the Khyber Pass. He goes on to detail spending time with his father and introduction to Afghan politics. Side A label reads: Hyder Tape #2 Commentary. Side B label reads: Hyder Tape #2 Personal Comm

Sound recording of commentary describing Afghanistan in June 2002 2002 June

Scope and Content Note

In this recording Akbar describes meeting important people in Afghan politics--ministers, warlords, Karzai, etc. Akbar also describes how one passes time without television, radio, or Internet. Includes commentary about the Loya jirga. Side A and B labels both read: Hyder Tape #3

Sound recording of commentary describing Afghanistan in June 2002 2002 June

Scope and Content Note

Commentary topics on this recording include the results of Loya Jirga, the funeral of Akbar's great-grandfather, and why his grandfather turned down the chance to be head-of-state. Side B label reads: Tape #4 Baba Going to Kunar

Sound recording of commentary describing Afghanistan in July 2002 2002 July 6

Scope and Content Note

This commentary follows an assassination of a family friend and minister. Akbar describes the first days of his father's role as Karzi's spokesman dealing with this event. Side A label reads: #5. Side B label reads: Assassination of Haji Jedir #5

Sound recording of commentary describing Afghanistan in July 2002 2002 July 15

Scope and Content Note

This recording describes, among other topics, Akbar's uncle with a glass eye, the Afghan experience with past wars versus the American experience with past wars, how his father grew up, American media in Afghanistan, the Afghan people and their culture. Side A label reads: Tape #6 Raox Mama. Side B label reads: Tape #6 Naab [??] Violence

Sound recording of commentary describing Afghanistan in July 2002 2002 July

Scope and Content Note

This tape describes Akbar's experiences with the American media in Afghanistan, the impact of decades of war, his frustration with Afghan political leaders, opposition to and danger to his father, and the lack of luxuries in Afghanistan. Side A label reads: Hyder Akbar Tape #7. Side B label reads: Frustration!

Sound recording of commentary describing Afghanistan in summer 2002 2002 summer

Scope and Content Note

Akbar narrates a car trip on the first side. On the second side he plays the radio and comments on the songs.

Sound recording of commentary describing Afghanistan in summer 2002 2002 summer

Scope and Content Note

Akbar describes traveling in a car in Kabul, comments on Afghan life/culture, describes getting sick on bad food, and relates why he is excited to return to America. He had recently returned from a trip to northern Afghanistan. Label reads: Hyder Tape #9

Sound recording of commentary describing Afghanistan in September 2002 2002 September 5-6

Scope and Content Note

In this recording Akbar describes food options concerning what makes his stomach sick, a bomb explosion that shook the hotel and killed lots of people, and the assassination attempt on Karzai. Included are recordings he made of BBC coverage of the bombing and assassination attempt. He offers analysis that the Karzai government is ineffective; that neighboring countries want an unstable, war-torn Afghanistan; how the attempt will not be answered by the administration; and comparing the attempt to the start of the Jihad against the Soviets and as the start of a new movement of regrouped Taliban. Label reads: Tape #10 Assassination

Sound recording of the press conference regarding the assassination attempt on President Karzai in 2002 2002 September 6

Scope and Content Note

Akbar sits and records in front of the BBC at the press conference. Side A label reads: Tape #11 Day at Palace. Side B label reads: Tape #11 Press Conference

Sound recording of commentary on Afghan life in summer 2002 2002 September 6-7

Scope and Content Note

Akbar describes Karzai's office during an interview, his second to last night in Afghanistan, guns, and a ride in an old Soviet helicopter. Side A label reads: Tape #12. Side B label reads: Tape #12 Panjaher