

March 1, 1950

NOTE FOR FILE #7902-B

The Embassy files contain the qualification records of the various engineers considered as possible members of the Helmand River Commission. The records of the three engineers finally chosen have not been copied, but they are all available in the Embassy files.

M. L.

Embassy
Fidelity Union Skin
MADE IN U.S.A.

TIPTON AND KALMBACH, INC.
ENGINEERS

831 FOURTEENTH STREET
DENVER 2, COLORADO

R. J. TIPTON, PRESIDENT
OLIN KALMBACH, VICE-PRES.
JINCY HUNT, TREASURER
F. L. KIRGIS, SECRETARY

AMHERST 6-2481
CABLE ADDRESS
ARTIP

28 December 1959

Via Air Mail

Mr. John G. Laylin
Amstel Hotel
Amsterdam, Holland


Dear John:

I am enclosing herewith a letter in connection with the work on the Helmand River which you discussed with me by phone last Thursday. Please feel free to show it to the relevant Irani officials.

In appraising the ability of the personnel in the office to do the work in connection with the problem posed by you, we came to the conclusion that Mr. Ed Nielsen would be by far the best staff member to be stationed overseas. You met him recently in Washington with Kalmbach. He is past Assistant Commissioner of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. A great deal of his early training with the Bureau was on basin investigations. He is one of our highest priced staff members; hence the size of the fee noted in the letter.

I hope you have an enjoyable and successful series of conferences in Amsterdam and if you go to Iran please give Louise our best regards.

Sincerely yours,


R. J. Tipton

RJT/joh

TIPTON AND KALMBACH, INC.
ENGINEERS

831 FOURTEENTH STREET
DENVER 2, COLORADO

AMHERST 6-2481
CABLE ADDRESS
ARTIP

R. J. TIPTON, PRESIDENT
OLIN KALMBACH, VICE-PRES.
JINCY HUNT, TREASURER
F. L. KIRGIS, SECRETARY

28 December 1959

Via Air Mail

Mr. John G. Laylin
Amstel Hotel
Amsterdam, Holland

Dear Mr. Laylin:

By phone on 24 December 1959 you asked whether Tipton and Kalmbach, Inc., would be interested in doing some work for Iran in connection with the Helmand River. You described the problem and I indicated to you that we would be interested in appraising the problem. You then asked for the rates that would be charged for the various ones who might be associated with the work.

I am aware that several years ago the State Department of the United States of America created an engineering commission headed by Mr. Robert L. Lowry to investigate present and prospective uses of the waters of the Helmand River in Afghanistan and Iran. As a result of the investigations of the commission, it rendered a report making certain recommendations. We are not familiar with the report or the recommendations. However, I understand that the Government of Iran may be desirous of having the report and its recommendations reviewed in order to determine whether under present circumstances the recommendations made by the engineering commission might result in an inequitable apportionment of the uses of the waters of the Helmand River between the two countries of Iran and Afghanistan.


Tipton and Kalmbach, Inc., would be interested in making such a review. It would be understood that we would be furnished with a copy of the report of the engineering commission appointed by our State Department so we could study it. It is to be understood also that we would be furnished with all other relevant information available to Iran. We then would send to Iran a small mission headed by either Mr. Kalmbach or myself. We would leave resident there for as long as necessary Mr. Edwin G. Nielsen who, together with Irani personnel, would gather sufficient information to permit this office to make a comprehensive report on the uses of the waters of the river in question, and to make recommendations to the Government of Iran.

We would expect to be paid the following fees:

	Services Performed	
	In U. S. A.	Overseas
R. J. Tipton	\$ 125 per day	\$ 200 per day
Olin Kalmbach	\$ 100 per day	\$ 150 per day
E. G. Nielsen	\$ 100 per day	\$ 130 per day

In addition to the above, there would be a certain amount of services performed by our Denver staff on computations, drafting, and like functions. We would expect to be paid the salary cost of such employees plus 100 percent. We would expect to be reimbursed for all other out of pocket expenses incurred in connection with the work, including travel and subsistence of any members of Tipton and Kalmbach, Inc., who might travel in connection with the work, both in the United States and overseas.

Sincerely yours,


R. J. Tipton

(In duplicate)

RJT/joh

Hellmand



IRANIAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

October 28, 1960

Mr. John G. Laylin
Covington & Burling
701, Union Trust Bldg.
15th & H Streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Laylin:

You will recall that some time ago His Excellency Dr. Ardalan, our former Ambassador in Washington, requested you to study the possibility of employing one or two engineers of international repute who would be competent to give advice on the Hellmand River question.

I should be grateful if you will kindly let me know what you have done so far on the matter.

Sincerely yours

[Redacted signature]

M. H. Puyani
Chargé d'Affaires a. i.

tl

*Sent twenty two copies of
Letter to Puyani*

October 28, 1960

His Excellency
Mr. M. H. Puyani
Charge d'Affaires a.i.
Embassy of Iran
3005 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington 8, D. C.

Dear Mr. Puyani:

This is written in response to your letter of today's date inquiring as to the investigations and recommendations that I have made with respect to the retaining of engineers competent to give advice on the Hirmand River question. Over the years consideration has been given to consultations with engineers who would be retained for the sole purpose of collecting and evaluating the data for the information of the Government of Iran. Whether the report would be made public would be decided upon after the report was received.

More recently there has been talk of setting up a board of engineers--one to be selected by Iran, one by Afghanistan and a third one to be selected by the two governments or by a third person designated by the two governments.

Nearly a year ago I was asked through Dr. Ardalan to make suggestions with respect to an engineer or firm of engineers who would be retained to collect and evaluate factual data and to make a report which in the first instance, at least, would be confidential to the Government of Iran. The firm of engineers that was advising the Government of Pakistan in the Indus Basin Waters Dispute came naturally first to my mind as being suitable for such an assignment. The firm is named Tipton & Kalmbach, Inc., of Denver, Colorado. Before going to Iran I wrote to Mr. Royce Tipton asking whether his firm would be interested in doing the work. I received telephonic confirmation that they would be interested and I passed this information on to the foreign secretary, Mr. Aram. I had asked Mr. Tipton to write me what his terms would be. A copy of his letter dated December 28 is enclosed. I did not receive this letter in time to give it to Mr. Aram.

His Excellency
Mr. M. H. Puyani
Page Two
October 28, 1960

Another firm that might be considered by your Government is the one that was retained by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to advise it in connection with its work as good officer in the Indus Basin Waters Dispute. The name of that firm is Tippetts-Abbett-McCarthy-Stratton. It is a very well-known firm in New York City. I have not talked with them about the possibility of being approached. The engineer in that firm who headed the active group working with the Bank was Mr. John Drisko. We came to know him and his associates well and very favorably. They were not personally as well-known internationally as are Mr. Tipton or Mr. Kalmbach I would suppose but the fact that they advised the Bank in the successful conclusion of the Indus Basin Waters Dispute has undoubtedly given them an international reputation.

I have the highest regard for the engineering competence and integrity of Tipton, Kalmbach and Drisko.

If your Government and the Government of Afghanistan decide to have a joint investigation made with one engineer appointed by your Government, one by the Afghan Government and a third one to be agreed upon or nominated by an agreed third party, I have in the past recommended and I continue of the view that it would nevertheless be desirable to have a confidential report prepared by engineers of the competence and reputation of the gentlemen I have mentioned as a preparatory step. The data that they collected and evaluated could be used in putting together an engineering brief for presentation of Iran's case before the joint commission. Whether it would be desirable to have the same engineer or one of the engineers that prepared the confidential report be your Government's nominee on the joint commission is a question that I would think your Government would want to decide after it has worked with the engineer and has either his report or a good idea of what would be in the report. With this in mind I would hesitate at this time to recommend an engineer to be nominated to a joint commission.

In view of Mr. Drisko's experience as engineering adviser to the World Bank in its capacity as good officer it is worth considering not approaching him at this time in the hope that if a joint commission is set up the Afghan's might agree to accept Mr. Drisko as the third engineer of that commission. If your Government and that of Afghanistan were to ask the State Department or the World Bank to nominate the

His Excellency
Mr. M. H. Puyani
Page Three
October 28, 1960

third engineer it is not at all unlikely that the name of John Drisko would be amongst the first to be considered by them. Messrs. Tipton and Kalmbach worked with us in our capacity as advocates for the Government of Pakistan and from my experience with them in that work I believe that they would be very helpful in preparing the best case that the circumstances permit. A report such as they would prepare would be valuable in the first instance in helping your Government to decide what solution it could agree to in a negotiation (and how to make the best use of Iran's share of the Hirmand River supplies) and secondly in preparing Iran's case either before a joint commission or before a good officer or even a board of arbitrators.

Very truly yours,

John G. Laylin

bg

Enclosure

October 9, 1962

His Excellency Abbas Aram
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Teheran, Iran

Dear Mr. Minister:

I talked with Mr. Royce J. Tipton, the irrigation engineer about whom I have written and spoken to you. He said that his charges are allocated payroll costs of junior engineers that he retains, plus 100% representing supervision, office overhead, etc. For his personal on the spot work out of the United States he charges \$200 a day. I asked him how much time he thought would be involved and for a rough estimate as to what the total cost would be for a reliable study of the irrigation requirements in Sistan. He said it would be difficult to give this without making a preliminary study.

I then learned that he was leaving for Pakistan next month. I asked him if he could stop over in Teheran to talk with you and your irrigation people and make recommendations as to what should be done, and give you an estimate as to the probable total cost. He said he could do this and would be

His Excellency Abbas Aram
October 9, 1962
Page Two

happy to do it on a preliminary basis without any obligation on your part. His flight plans are such that he could put down in Teheran somewhere around the 17th of November.

If you would like Mr. Tipton to stop by in Teheran at that time, will you let me know and I shall write to him, or you could let him know directly at his office: 610-611 Insurance Building, Denver, Colorado.

Sincerely yours,

John G. Laylin

cb

cc: Mr. Royce J. Tipton