Missionaries for Democracy: U.S. Aid for Global Pluralism

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WASHINGTON, May 31 — For several years after Soviet troops entered Afghanistan in 1979, a former editor and Information Minister in Kabul tried to get money to restore the village school system destroyed in rebel-held areas of his country.

The Afghan, Sabahuddin Kushkaki, applied unsuccessfully to the United States Agency for International Development and to major American private foundations. Every one turned him down, thinking the war would be short.

Then, as the fighting continued, he and some friends happened upon an organization with the right combination of Government money, bureaucratic flexibility and anti-Communist commitment — the National Endowment for Democracy.

Using Federal money, it provided $180,845 to train teachers, conduct literacy courses for rebel fighters, reopen some schools and publish new text-books with unflattering accounts of the Soviet role in Afghan history. "They have been giving us help without any strings attached," Mr. Kushkaki said on a recent visit to Washington.

Public Money, Private Interests

This is part of an unusual worldwide campaign, billed as a promotion of democracy and free enterprise, that mixes public funds and private interests. Conceived in a new spirit of ideological confidence in the United States, the effort is described by some of those involved as an expression of the "Reagan Doctrine," which envisions an aggressive American policy in fostering a move toward democracy in the third world. After three years, the program has now taken a clear shape.

The National Endowment for Democracy, a private group created for the purpose, has channeled a total of $53.7 million in Government money to foreign political parties, labor unions, newspapers, magazines, book publishers and other institutions in countries, predominantly in countries where democracy is deemed fragile or nonexistent.

The Federal money is being used for

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with waterways. The system of flood-control levees also includes a 50-mile parallel system of flood-control levees that is vital to the state's economy and serves as an example of cooperation among federal, state, and local governments. The system is maintained by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), a federal agency that was created in 1933 to provide flood control and hydroelectric power in the region. The TVA is responsible for managing the levees and ensuring that they remain in good condition. The levees serve as a vital transportation corridor for the state's transportation network and play a crucial role in the state's economy.