

10. (~~SBU~~) USAID was presented with a grant proposal by the UOU for a \$30k grant for printing equipment for the UOU to establish its own newsletter. Though printing of independent media is illegal in Turkmenistan, the UOU assured DCM it already had advance approval from local authorities because a license was needed for anything over 1000 copies and the UOU only planned to publish 999 copies. UOU members said the content of the newsletter would be nonpolitical and only would describe the activities of the Union. If members wanted to make additional copies, the UOU told DCM, "that is up to them." Eventually subscribers would be charged for the newsletter, which would then become self-sustaining, according to the UOU plan. USAID has requested that the UOU submit a stronger, more cost-effective proposal.

11. (~~SBU~~) The UOU also is considering opening chapters in other welayets because "our services are in so much demand."

Comment

12. (~~SBU~~) Crazy? Like a fox; and worthy of USG attention and support. End Comment.

13. (U) Minimize considered.

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BT
#1028

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