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Radio Tajikistan
English Service
ul. Chapayev, 31
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Dushanbe
Tajikistan
September 16, 1996

IT9TZZ
P.O.Box 213
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Italia

Dear Mr. Giovanni Lorenzi!

We were very delighted to receive a reception report from you. It gives me much pleasure to tell you that you have tuned into broadcast of one of daily programmes of our Station in the English language.

Some words about our programme in English. Three my partners and I translate information on the events currently occurred in Tajikistan from Russian (Tajik) into English before taping the programme in studios. You can also enjoy Tajik classical and modern music. On Saturdays and Sundays we broadcast special programmes about Tajik-Persian poets, writers, scientists, those people who brought glory to the Oriental countries, radio-compositions about Tajik musical instruments, Tajik national cuisine, about customs and traditions of our land.

Some words about our country. Tajikistan is one of the countries which form modern Central Asia. Other countries of this region are Uzbekistan, Kirgizstan, Turkmenistan and southern Kazakhstan. Central Asia is a highly mountainous area where the great cordillera is fused by the Pamir Mountains. The Pamir is the second biggest mountain range in the world. It was called the "Roof of the World" by geographer Raphael Pumpelly at the turn of the century. The region is an ethnic melting pot, with the basic stock flavoured by centuries of Turkic-Mongol influence. Unlike the Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Kirgiz and Turkmens, the Tajiks trace their ethnic and linguistic roots to Persia. In big cities of Tajikistan (Dushanbe - the capital, Khudjand, Khorog, Kurgan-Tube, Kulyab) many people know Russian, but still prefer to speak Tajik, the language which is similar to Farsi or Persian.

The decades of Soviet rule have created a hybrid Muslim culture. The women of Tajikistan, like others in Central Asia don't wear their veil although most do wear traditional clothing: brightly patterned silk dresses with silk trousers (like a Tajik girl on the sticker).

Time moves slowly in Tajikistan. Many hours of the day are spent sipping hot tea in the hot afternoons. Conversation tends to be unhurried. In fact,