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H E M O R A N D U H
TO: INTERFUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FROM: INTERFUND DIRECTOR
RE: 1PRIORITIES AND DIRECTIONS .
DATE: 06/01/1990
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1. General
1 ' INTERFUND continues to support projects in the areas of
. education, training and community development in both South
Africa and Namibia. The theme of the programme is well
established and clear: the development of skills and human
resources for a non-racial, democratic future in South
Africa and Namibia. We interpret "education and training"
broadly so as to include a wide range of community
development activities, general education work, legal
services, community health, rural development , media
services, etc. This breadth of focus is appropriate, given
the variety of progressive project work underway and in view
of the urgent needs for skills development in every sector
of the community. Yet while the scope is wide, INTERFUND
does nonetheless insist on a valid and clearly defined
training component in all of its projects.
In 1990/91, we envisage a modest expansion in funding and in
the range of programmes supported. This expansion is a
response to a number of circumstances:
.. X growth of existing project partner needs
X emergence of many new and impressive training
initiatives
x greater levels of community organizational and project
work in outlying regions of the country
a x changes in the social and political climate in South
Africa which have given space and impetus to new
community-based programmes
x the increased priority which has been given to
human resource development by the democratic movement
x '.winding down of INTERFUND involvement in Namibia
project support (1990/91 will be the last year of

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support) and thus some capacity for new South Africa programmes

X anticipated modest expansion in overall funding capacity

This year, five programmes funded in the 89/90 funding year have not re-applied for support. Nine new projects are being put forward, for a net increase of four projects. These programmes include: three rural-based education-and training initiatives; a new national tuition support programme; a teacher and tuition support programme based in the , strife-ridden Natal Midlands region; a national Youth training scheme; a national women's magazine; a Cape-based arts and media training institute; and a national cooperatives education programme. By expanding support in this way, INTERFUND will be giving emphasis to the following areas: .

X national coordination and training structures

rural-based and developmental programmes

X increased regional focus in the Transkei and in Natal

X greater outreach to women

X cooperation with the national youth organization and youth organizational training structures

3 a structured "training of trainers" approach to arts and media education

X a new involvement in cooperatives and income generation training

The adoption of these new programmes will not entail a large new commitment of funds, except in the case of the NECC-backed Education and Development Trust (Supplementary Tuition Programmes), where the proposed target is in the range of R. 250,000.

1989 has seen good performance to fundraising goals. All targets having been met and both Canadian and Operaasjon Dagsverk funding have come on-stream to supplement existing Danish, Norwegian and NUFO support. In 1990, INTERFUND will continue its work, with member agencies, to enlarge the funding base if possible, especially in Canada. while possibilities are limited for fundraising in countries not currently represented in INTERFUND, we will continue to look at further sources that might assist over the longer term. INTERFUND continues to ensure that its funding decisions are in line with guidelines and criteria articulated by the

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popular movements of South Africa and Namibia. Special note is taken of the guidelines developed by the Kagiso Trust in consultation with the Mass Democratic Movement and the S.A. Council of Churches. Every effort will be made to maintain extensive consultation with internal mass-based organizations and with the externally-based liberation movement.

Other priority areas of work will be:

X " Further substantiated evaluations of funding partner activities. As well as general evaluations of projects, a good deal of more intensive review has taken place in 1989. Focus projects have included: the SACHED Trust projects; the Eastern Cape News Agencies; Community Health Project (Health Care Trust); and Sizani Education Project. In 1990/91, further attention should be paid to SACHED projects, particularly Community Education, Educational Resources and Khanya College. Other focus projects should be: Adult Learning Project and other literacy partners, Joint Distribution Group, and Riverlea Resource Centre.

Continued emphasis on strong field contacts, liaison and resource services vis a vis projects and progressive organizations. In 1989, a new field Administrative Officer came on staff. In 1990, the field post will be strengthened by the training and appointment of a new field-based Programme Officer. The current Programme Officer will continue to assist for most of the year and will be involved in extensive training, handover and evaluations work. The workload of the field post will be evaluated with a view to establishing appropriate staffing levels in 1991.

x Close monitoring and reporting of critical developments in South Africa. The pace of social change and political developments has picked up dramatically in the latter part of 1989, in the wake of the mass defiance campaign and the advent of the de Klerk regime. The environment in which INTERFUND and project partners operate can be expected to change even more in X Extensive consultation and cooperation with the newly revived National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) and with the Mass Democratic Movement. Stronger links should also be forged with the newly launched Education and Development Trust (EDT) and the Kagiso Trust.

\$ A formal evaluation of the Emergency Programme Fund and the Staff Development Funds will take place in 1990.

This was originally scheduled for 1989. However, due to pressures of work and a desire to base the evaluation

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on more extensive experience, the exercise was deferred to 1990. It is proposed that the current Programme Officer undertake a full evaluation in the latter part of 1990.

x Further development of information-sharing relationships with INTERFUND member agencies and associated groups. Some progress has been made in 1989, with the hiring of a new Administrator with experience in this area of work. But this progress was limited due to the Administrator's heavier than expected workload in the area of finances. The proposed hiring of a part-time bookkeeper in 1990 should free the Administrator to address more of his time to this work. Following are summary comments on specific areas of work and concern which bear on our 90/91 programme planning.

2. Principled Support

INTERFUND continues to adhere to a broad, non-divisionist funding policy. We clearly identify our responsibility to the anti-apartheid, non-collaborationist majorities in both South Africa and Namibia. In doing so, we aim to avoid any narrowly sectarian or tendentious direction in our programme. This is in line with calls by major popular political organizations for the widest possible principled anti-apartheid alliance.

Support premised on a non-racial, democratic and unitary society precludes cooperation with state-collaborationist groups. We are careful to avoid implicating ourselves in projects whose political agenda is in any way undermining of maximum unity and democracy in the anti-apartheid movement. INTERFUND has worked to establish extensive consultation and lines of communication with internal popular, educational, student/youth and worker organizations. INTERFUND maintains, in cooperation with its Management Committee and member agencies, a regular dialogue with the externally-based South African liberation movement and with SWAPO. These networks were strengthened in 1988 and with the annual consultation with ANC Lusaka and the Treasury Dept. 'r...

3. Field Liaison

The implementation of field liaison has been successful in 1989, despite huge pressures on the post. The operation of a solid, low-profile liaison facility has enhanced INTERFUND's effectiveness. The field post will be strengthened in 1990 by the training and appointment of new staff and a modest expansion of office facilities.

4. Emergency Response

The Emergency Programme Fund was introduced during 1987. An interim evaluation by the Secretariat was submitted to the Management Committee in January 1988, with an overall positive verdict. A more formalized review, originally planned for 1989, will take place in 1990. Demand on the Fund has been very high, to the extent that available funds were nearly exhausted by end-1989. The quality of applications and results has also been high. INTERFUND is unconvinced of the continuing need for this mechanism of response. The Emergency Fund allows us to react more effectively to the fluid social and political situation and to the fast pace of project development.

5. Staff Development Fund

The programme is functioning well. Numbers of applications have increased markedly in 1989, with the greater emphasis of the democratic movement and service agencies on staff development, the Fund remains very much in tune with current thinking. The Fund will be fully evaluated in 1990.

6. Regional Balance

Much of education and training work supported by INTERFUND is pursued by local and national organizations based in the major urban centres -- Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. However, in 1989, we extended INTERFUND assistance to projects in a number of less-advantaged regions.

In the Eastern Cape, new support has been extended to the Eastern Cape Adult Learning Project. A number of existing project partners have expanded their work in the E. Cape i.e. SACHED, via the ENE study group programme, and LRC through its offices in Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown. Through the Emergency Fund, a new township-based media training scheme has been supported in Port Elizabeth. In the rural Cape, funding has gone to Surplus People Project work with squatter communities. A small bursary scheme in the Karoo has also received assistance. Through the Human Awareness Programme (HAP), the Staff Development Fund has supported training of community advice workers at Vryburg in the Northern Cape. A new Emergency Fund application from the Stellenbosch Advice Office is currently under consideration.

Political liberalization in the Transkei under the Holomisa administration has given more room for progressive and community development efforts. The Village Health workers project in Cala is making good progress. EDA rural development training in the Transkei has been reevaluated and is expected to move ahead. In 1990/91 new support is

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proposed for the Adult Literacy and Advice Centre (ALAC), based in Umtata, and for the Gala University Students Association (CALUSA), an integrated community education and development scheme.

In the Midlands and outlying areas of Natal, further support has been extended. This has included Emergency Fund assistance to the Midlands Education Development Unit (MEDU) and to rural community development training by CORD h(Community Organization, Research and Development). Both of these programmes are being recommended for regular cycle funding in 1990/91.

Eastern Transvaal work has been boosted by the growth of the Thusanang Study Project based at Jane Furse. Through HAP, advice office training was offered to community workers at Belfast. In the Western Transvaal, despite organizational problems which have now been overcome, the work of the Sizanani Study Project (Cambridge Study Groups) has carried on well.

In the Orange Free State (OFS), the SACHED LACOM office in Bloemfontein provides training and resource services to community groups under very harsh circumstances. Last year through HAP, we supported organizational training for the OFS Activists' Forum.

In 90/91, INTERFUND will carry on its efforts to provide greater access and support to disadvantaged regions.

7. Namibia Projects

We are gratified to have seen the end of the war in Namibia in 1989 and the successful implementation of Resolution 435. 1990 will bring independence and the establishment of bilateral and other direct aid programmes for Namibia. Throughout 1989, we have maintained especially close contacts with our Namibia partners. With them, and with INTERFUND member agencies, we are trying to ensure that continued support for non-government training and education programmes will be forthcoming.

During the current transition period, before new bilateral and other channels are fully functional, INTERFUND is making provision for one more year of support for Namibia partners (the Namibia Literacy Programme, The Namibian's multilingual supplement, Focus, the Legal Assistance Centre, and the Namibia National Students Organization). This support has been urgently requested by partners and is vital to sustain existing work as well as to facilitate a smooth transition to new funding arrangements. Being an anti-apartheid channel by definition and mandate, INTERFUND will cease to be directly involved in Namibia funding after the coming 90/91 funding period. However, the member agencies of INTERFUND

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are now busy with their own plans for direct development assistance in the independence era.

8. Alternative and "People's" Education

This area is a first order priority for INTERFUND. Such education is premised on the building of non-racial, democratic practice in training itself and ultimately in society as a whole. It also stresses active community involvement in decision making along with the values of critical thinking, practical skills development and community service.

INTERFUND will remain involved in practical models of "people's education" as well as in applied research programmes which seek to provide material, resource and academic back-up to these models. At the practical level, INTERFUND will continue to support various independent study groups and supplementary tuition schemes. A national support and coordinating structure for these groups is being launched by the Education and Development Trust, and this structure is also being put forward for support. New funding is also recommended for an integrated rural education programme (CALUSA) in the Gala region of the Transkei and for a teacher and tuition group resource centre (MEDU) in Pietermaritzburg, Natal. In terms of research, policy and materials development, we will continue our core assistance to SACHED programmes in this area, Learning Nation, and the education policy units in Johannesburg and Durban.

INTERFUND provides support to a number of adult/worker non-formal education schemes, especially in the area of literacy. In 1989, the Eastern Cape Adult Learning Programme was successfully revived. In 1990/91 new assistance will go to the Adult Literacy and Advice Centre in Umtata, Transkei. INTERFUND will continue to maintain a close consultative and supportive relationship with community education structures, especially with the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC).

9. Coordination Mechanisms and Structures

In 1990/91, INTERFUND should maintain its commitment to the development of structures for coordination among progressive education/training groupings and other projects. In 1989, Emergency Fund support facilitated meetings which led to the foundation of a National Bursary Council. In the coming year, funding is proposed for the national tuition support and coordination programme of the Education and Development Trust (EDT). As well as through existing networks and project partners, we will aim to assist new coordination mechanisms via the Emergency Programme Fund.

10. Scholarships

Core INTERFUND project partners in the field of scholarships (SASET, SAMST and SAPET) have faced a crisis of increasing demands for bursaries and a consequent need for more funding. In 1989 much progress was made in widening the funding base of these trusts, particularly with the recent commitment of European Community funds to SASET-End SAMST. However, needs remain great and we are recommending continued-support in 1990/91 at the same level as last year. While we have assisted some smaller community-based scholarship schemes in recent years, our aim is to concentrate on our historic commitment to the Cape Trusts. These Trusts have consistently widened their service constituency at a national level and have become much more professional in their operations. The Staff Development Programme, offering staff upgrading grants to project partners, will carry on with a formal evaluation to be carried out during the year.

11. Projects with an Impact on Women

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A number of INTERFUND projects have a particular service constituency among doubly disadvantaged women in S.A. and Namibia. In 88/89 were able to extend valuable small-scale funding to Speak magazine for the successful establishment of a Transvaal office. In 1990/91, we propose regular cycle funding for the magazine. Speak is the only widely distributed, basic literacy level magazine catering to the progressive women's constituency in South Africa. Over the course of the coming year, we should look to further involvement in useful ventures which address the concerns of

12. Rural Impact

Progress has been made in extending impact in rural areas. Playing a special role in this regard are: the Environmental and Development Agency (EDA), Village Health Workers, the Rural Legal Services Project, Thusanang Study Project, and Surplus People Project. In 90/91, INTERFUND will maintain its commitment to rural-based work. Grants are recommended to the CALUSA education scheme, to the Adult Literacy and Advice Centre in Trahskai, and to CORD rural development training. These grants will strengthen the community organizational and development aspects of INTERFUND's programme.

13. Health Education and Services

Community health is a well-established area of INTERFUND concern. Project partners involved include Health Care Trust, Alexandra Health Centre, EDA, S.A- Medical Scholarships Trust, Riverlea Community Resources Centre and

the Centre for the Study of Health Policy. This group of projects represents a significant financial commitment. No new health projects are being presented for regular cycle support in 89/90.

14. Legal Education and Services

Through the Legal Resources Centre and the Rural Legal Services Project, INTERFUND assists in the provision of para-legal training, resources and advice to the community. In 1989/90, with Canadian backing, INTERFUND extended training support via the Legal Assistance Centre in Namibia. All of these programmes will receive further funding in 1990/91.

15. Media, Arts and Culture

The alternative media, though still labouring under emergency restrictions, remains remarkably lively and resilient. Among current media projects supported are: Learn and Teach Publications, Work in Progress/Southern Africa Research Service, Learning Nation, SACHED Publications, the Joint Distribution Group, ERIP publications, the Namibian, Video News Services, Eastern Cape News Agencies, and The Other Press Service.

Progressive publications, by virtue of their wider distribution networks and educational impact, must continue to be a high priority. Equally important are media training schemes which provide essential skills to community, union and popular journalistic groups. Extensive field reporting and liaison with groups will be pursued in relation to developments in state censorship and action against media groups.

Arts and cultural education programmes will continue to receive support through the Open School and, beginning in 1990, the Community Arts Project (CAP), based in Cape Town. CAP has reached an exciting stage in its development. It has become a leading institution for the training of trainers and facilitators in the area of alternative arts and media. The training approach of CAP is systematic and includes a strong organizational and technical skills component. Assistance to CAP, and to mass-based cultural programmes in general, has been endorsed by national and regional popular groupings, including the National Cultural Desk. -

16. Community Resources, Organizational Training and Applied Research

INTERFUND counts among its partners several community resource and training programmes, including the Education Research and Information Project, the Community Research Unit, SACHED Labour and Community Education Project, the Administrative Training Project and the Computer Literacy

Project (CASE). The overall achievements of these groups in 1989 have been impressive. Activities have included running of resource centres, media and information services, organizational, technical and financial training, and extension of advice centres. Over the past two years we have also built up a good relationship with the Human Awareness Programme (HAP) in Johannesburg. HAP has made good use of the Staff Development Fund to subsidize tailored training workshops and seminars for smaller community groups, especially those in smaller townships and rural areas. INTERFUND should maintain strong support to this complex of programmes in 89/90.

In regard to organizational and leadership training for youth, we plan to provide startup support (with Operation Dagsverk funding) to the Youth Services and Training project (YSTP), a national project which is being launched by the South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) and others.

With specific reference to applied research, INTERFUND makes an on-going contribution to: the Education Policy Unit (EPU) at the University of Witwatersrand, the Education Projects Unit at the University of Natal, and the Centre for the Study of Health Policy at Wits University.

17. Cooperatives Education and Training is largely a result of general economic and industrial decline, high levels of retrenchments and mass unemployment. INTERFUND involvement in coop education has been limited to date, chiefly consisting of: EDA rural cooperatives support; the research work done by the Cooperative Training Project in Durban (funded by the Emergency Fund); and a successful small-scale skills training programme for workers at Coop Marketing and Development in the Eastern Cape.

In 1990/91 we propose core funding for the newly formed Cooperative Planning and Education project (COPE). COPE is a non-profit development organization, national in scope, which provides training, information, and resources relating to the establishment of cooperatives. Much of the work of the project will be the training of cooperative trainers, fieldworkers and organizers. COPE was set up after extensive consultation with service groups, community organizations, trade unions and the Kagiso Trust. A contribution by INTERFUND to this well structured cooperatives education programme will enhance our overall impact in the realms of community development and income-generating activities.

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18. Labour Support Projects

Although none of INTERFUND's partners serve the labour sector exclusively, many extend valuable services and resources to trade unions. Many of the literacy groups supported work closely with unions to organize learner groups. A number of the resource and organizational training projects provide programmes and resources for unions. It should be recognized that progressive trade unions represent --one of the best organized and most dynamic centres of democratic opposition in South Africa. Labour is also generating a wide range of education and training needs and projects. While INTERFUND is not a labour support channel itself, we should continue to assist service agencies with union support components. We should also maintain lines of consultation with COSATU, staying well briefed and responsive to labour's education and training concerns.

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