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# AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

of South-Africa

Afrikkalainen kansalliskongressi

24th february 1992

Eila Karhu  
Pelimannintie 20 I 92  
00420 Helsinki

Dear Eila,

Thank you for your letter dated 10.2.92 together with details of your planned research trip to South Africa to enquire into "The Literature and the Press as a media for Communication for the Black people in South Africa".

We are pleased that you, as a long-standing activist here in Finland in the struggle against apartheid, plans to go to South Africa in connection with the above matter. There is in our view much merit in your proposed project and we have little doubt of its potential to bring further knowledge on this aspect of apartheid.

The question of the media, its control and its role, has become a very topical issue in the current stage of transition to a democratic society. So too is the role of culture, literature in particular, in the processes of democratisation. Your proposed research trip, therefore, is timely and could provide valuable information and insight into these problems for people here in Finland and elsewhere.

We are very appreciative that you have informed us of your plans and express the hope they will materialise and yield the desired results.

By copy of this letter I am informing our own Department of Arts and Culture in Johannesburg which you are likely to include on your South African itenary.

With best regards,

Mohamed Hussein  
ANC Representative to Finland.

cc: ANC Dept. of Arts and Culture, Johannesburg.



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telefax 462 205

Helsinki, 10.2.1992

Mr. Mohammed Hussein  
ANC

RECEIVED

14-02-1992

Dear Mohammed,

Here are the details of my planned research trip to South Africa.

Could you please ask the ANC cultural department or other department to write a letter to me for the needs of the Afrikainstitutet in Uppsala, in order to prove them that some institution in South Africa accepts my visit.

The letter may be sent by mail or by telefax addressed to me. The main point is, that an ANC official says that my visit is o.k. for ANC. The message can be formulated how ANC officials wish.

Yours sincerely

*Eila Karhu*  
Eila Karhu



#### **DETAILED WORK PLAN**

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#### **The research work in South Africa in 1992**

Subject of the research: **The literature and the press as a media of communication for the black people in South Africa** for the pre-doctoral fil. lic. thesis at the University of Helsinki.

I have participated in anti-apartheid activities during 15 years in Finland. I had a chance to interview several progressive South African writers when they visited Finland. According to my interviews of South African writers for my former M.A. (pro gradu) thesis, it is obvious that the literature has had a great role as a media of communication and a way strengthening the black identity. The black-owned press has been practically non-existing in South Africa during apartheid years but obviously it will be growing and becoming stronger. The whites own nearly all the newspapers and magazines read by the blacks.

One goal of the research is to find out how the literature can survive and stay as a powerful media and a connecting link for the blacks in the surroundings where the power is in the hands of a white minority and where the literature is restricted by a censorship supporting the interests of that minority. In addition I examine the role of the press in changing situation in South Africa. The media offered by the whites has not satisfied the needs of the blacks.

The progressive black literature supports the aspirations of the black majority for the equality with the white minority. The blacks have not had own means of expression during apartheid years in the press, radio or television but they have had possibilities to print books in exile or in South Africa legally or illegally. The strictness of the censorship has fluctuated according to the political events. During and after political unrests the censorship has tightened and then slightly eased after some more peaceful years. However, as a whole the censorship has step by step become stricter and stricter until the end of the the years 1980. The printed and oral literature became a common tie, a means of common black identity and a media for the support of aspirations for equality with the whites. Many meetings of the blacks include reciting of poetry or a short play or a sketch. The censorship has been avoided by different indirect ways.

Now the situation may change in South African race politics. This is a very interesting period to study the influence of the literature and the press as a media of communication during a transition period.



## **Medhods:**

**1. Study of South African black literature and press comparing it to the simultaneous political events.**

**2. Series of interviews in South Africa**

For the research I need an extended series of interviews of South African writers, journalists and readers. In Finland I have very rarely possibilities to interview South African writers or other persons. They visit Finland only occasionally, and the scientific coverage of such a limited series of interviews is not large enough for a fil.lic. thesis or other major scientific research.

**3. Collecting of written and oral literature and press material.** Most of that material is not available abroad.

**4. Studies in South African libraries.**

## **Time of the tour**

Four or five weeks between 1.6. - 31.7.1992 according to travel and interview arrangements. Localities: Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, possibly some other cities.





## Resestipendier 1991

Styrelsen för Nordiska Afrikainstitutet beslöt vid sammanträde den 19 november 1991 att utdela resestipendier för forskning och förberedelse av forskningsprojekt i Afrika till följande personer:

<i>G. Desalegn Abraha, Uppsala, Sverige</i> Establishment processes in a developing economy: the case of Swedish firms in Kenya	25 000
<i>Oheneba Akyeampong, Stockholm, Sverige</i> Turismen som en utvecklingsstrategi: en jämförande studie av Ghana och Gambia	30 000
<i>Inge Amundsen, Tromsø, Norge</i> Democracy and state power: interest groups, parties, and state power in the process of democratisation in West Africa	30 000
<i>Keld Buciek, Köpenhamn, Danmark</i> Industriarbejde og hverdagsliv. Livsformer blandt lønearbejdere på industrivirksomheder i Ghana	26 600
<i>Miguel de Jesus Delgado Da Luz, Oslo, Norge</i> Jordbruksutvikling på Kapp Verde etter 1975. Utviklingsidealer og virkelighetsforståelse	35 000
<i>Siri Damman, Oslo, Norge</i> Kvinnens strategier omkring mat i Bozohusholdet (Mali)	35 000
<i>Jan-Olof Drangert, Linköping, Sverige</i> Möjligheter och begränsningar att utveckla och underhålla hushålls vattenkällor i Sukumaland, Tanzania	30 000
<i>Ragna Kopp Egsmose, Gentofte, Danmark</i> Rural youth in transition from school to which future? Visions and realities for employment and family life. The case of Taita Taveta.	30 000
<i>Gun M. Eriksson, Uppsala, Sverige</i> Determinants of the soft budget constraint in Tanzania	25 000
<i>Leif John Fosse, Oslo, Norge</i> The social construction of ethnicity and nationalism in East Caprivi in independent Namibia	35 000



<i>Katarina Frostell, Åbo, Finland</i> Women and the right to participation in public affairs in Finland and in Zambia	28 400
<i>Zacharia Sylvester Galaa, Oslo, Norge</i> Traditional birth attendants in the pursuit for health for all	15 000
<i>Abdou Oujimai Gibba, Bergen, Norge</i> Norwegian NGOs as agents of micro-development in the Gambia	14 300
<i>Randi Høvik, Bergen, Norge</i> Norsk og tanzanisk organisasjonsaspekter i det forebyggende Aids-arbeid. Organisasjon og politisk kultur. Hvordan fore- stillinger om effektiv organisering varierer med politisk kultur	20 000
<i>Nina Johnsen, Mørkøv, Danmark</i> Traditional medicine in development: a pastoral case	14 661
<i>Eila Karhu, Helsingfors, Finland</i> Black literature and press as a media of communication in South Africa	25 000
<i>Tone Therese Linge, Oslo, Norge</i> Music-archive at Nayuma Museum, Zambia: how does the new media-technology affect traditional African music-culture	19 200
<i>Tapio Nisula, Vanda, Finland</i> Medical knowledge in an African community (Zanzibar)	30 000
<i>Ingrid Charlotte Norby, Porsgrunn, Norge</i> Bakgalagadis food choice (Botswana)	30 000
<i>Maragaret Akinyi Obondo, Stockholm, Sverige</i> Language attrition and stagnation in language contact situation: the case of Dholuo first language speakers in primary schools in Kenya	35 000
<i>Rose Pettersson, Västerås, Sverige</i> Recurring themes in Nadine Gordimer's novels	20 400
<i>Ritva Reinikka, Helsingfors, Finland</i> Uncertainty and trade liberalization in Kenya in the early 1980s	17 000
<i>Nyainda Sentumbwe, Oslo, Norge</i> A study of the sexual experiences and marital opportunities of visual impaired persons in Uganda	35 000
<i>Kjetil Tronvoll, Skedsmokorset, Norge</i> Nationalism and survival strategies in an ethnic conflict area—the Eritrean case	35 000
<i>Liv Tørres, Oslo, Norge</i> The political impact of trade unionism in South Africa	35 000