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PROJECTS REPORT

1. Relocation of the Textile, Printing Graphics and Weaving Workshop

In February of this year Bernard Thulo and Marlin Sellmann (SIDA) came from the Dakawa Textile centre in Tanzania in agreement with the DAC to conduct a two months feasibility study tour for the relocation of the above mentioned workshops. After travelling to the 14 ANC regions and consulting extensively with organisations. Grahamstown was found to be the most suitable place to house the workshops. They identified suitable buildings for the purchasing to house the workshops, staff and students. These premises were then evaluated by Cdes Doodles and Tickle. The next step was to secure . the sale of the erven 685, 683, 684, and 728. Ismail Ayob and Partners have been approached on our behalf. The purchase price of R390 00,00 (Three Hundred and Ninety Thousand Rand) was finally agreed upon and occupation of the premises will take place upon registration of transfer. To date our offices is still awaiting confirmation and proof of the sales transaction from our lawyer. On 14 August Cdes Wally and Aloma met with ANC cultural workers, members of the Grahamstown repatriation programme and the Old Power Station Co-op in Grahamstown. Amongst other issues, a briefing of the proposed Workshop was given. The Grahamstown comrades agreed to form a working committee. The function of this committee will be to inform grassroots and cultural organisations in the region about the project. This will facilitate the election of . members to a Board of Trustees. it was agreed that the board should consist of 5 members: three from the Grahamstown environs and two who could be nationally based. Susan Mabie from the Congress of South African Writers (Eastern Cape) has already been proposed by the local ANC; Marlin Sellmann has proposed Bongi Dhlomo from the Thupelo Arts Project and Princess Ngcobo from Roukes Drift. The primary role of the Board of Trustees will be to formulate and carry out policy for the Workshop. Marlin Sellmann has agreed to be the initial co-ordinator / administrator of the project. Vusi Khumalo and Ephraim Ramdeka

will be responsible for the Textile Printing component. Bernard Thulo will take responsibility for the Graphics component. The person to co-ordinate the weaving component (a women called Joyce from Mazimbu) still needs to be confirmed . Vusi who is still in exile has indicated that he will definitely be in the early country by early October (9 Oct '91). Bernard and Ehprim are already in the country and available to commence duties. The Repatriation programme in Grahamstown is also planning a reception for the Cdes.

Because the house which is part of the Workshop premise in uninhabitable at this point in time, it has been agreed upon, after consultation that a house be rented cheaply to accomodate Vusi, Marlin, Bernard and Ephraim temporarily.

Two containers which contents are machinery, materials, furniture etc. for setting up the workshop has been sent from Sweden to Grahamstown via Port Elizabeth. However the correct import requirements (ie Import Permits and Tarif Classifications) have not been met by our people in Sweden before setting the containers to sail. Hence we are now caught up in a bureaucratic impasse with the governments department of Trade and Industry and the department of Customs and Excise. It is for this reason that our legal department has been approached and also to ask Leadership to intervene.

There are two more containers in Dar-Es -Salaam which need to be sent to Grahamstown Birgitta Savefjord (SIDA- Dar) has indicated that they are waiting for the clearance of the two containers in PE. before shipping the containers from Dar.

2. The Exhibition : OFS

At a consultative meeting (15 July '91) between the DAC and Andy Sefathelo from Bloemfontein Cultural Workers Project, it was agreed that the said person will be employed by the department to co-ordinate a planned exhibition of the Dakawa textiles in Bloemfontein. A letter detailing the above was forwarded to the ANC Southern Free State region and to the Bloemfontein Cultural Workers

Project. Both structures approved of our recommendation.

On thursday 8 August Cdes Wally and Aloma met with Andy, Gideon Motsekoa and other cultural workers from the ANC and FOSACO. The purpose of this meeting was to establish the Exhibition Organising committee and to brainstorm ideas for the exhibition. The Cdes also took the opportunity to show us three possible venues for the exhibition viz two shopping complexes and the PACOFS building. Regarding the date and venue of the exhibition, the exhibition committee has agreed, for political and historical reasons that 12 January will be an ideal date for the exhibition. The PACOFS building has been found to be the most suitable premises available. A proposed budget of R14 986.10 for the organising and planning of the festival has been submitted to our department by Cde Andy. It is felt that this amount is far too high for a one off event. Hence the festival committee is also exploring other fund raising strategies. They also intend approaching Shell and other big companies. A proposal to this effect still needs to be submitted to DAC for ratification.

3. National Workshops

The DAC is planning a series of workshops for mid 1992. The idea is to do a follow -up on the kind of workshops held during the Zabalaza festival (London, July '90).

The purpose of these workshops is to address the imbalances created by apartheid cultural structures and to equip our people with the necessary skills that will facilitate the emergence of a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist South African culture.

The artforms that have been decided upon are:

- i) The performing arts
- ii) Writing
- iv) Photography and film
- v) Fine Arts

The disciplines dealing with these artforms have been approached to suggest names of people to facilitate the various workshops.

The venue, number of participants and budget still need to be finalised.

4. Amandla Cultural Ensemble

The process of bringing Amandla back into the country has been embarked upon by the DAC. Presently most of Amandla's members are writing exams in Harare.

A final list of whom Amandla comprise of will be made available to the DAC after a meeting with Amandla has taken place on Friday 4 October '91. Cde Premi has agreed to fax this list to us on Saturday 5 October. This list will also be submitted to the repatriation committee so that the process of repatriation can be facilitated. Before coming back Amandla will tour Botswana. It is Cde Oupa who is doing the follow-up on arrangements for the tour.

Amandla's first performance back in South Africa will take place at the Youth League Festival which is scheduled for the end of December. The suggestion that a promoter be located in the PWV region who will take responsibility for organising concerts for Amandla here still needs to be crystalised.

Already there are requests for Amandla to perform in the Northern Tvl, Western Cape and at the university of Fort Hare. Dates to this effect will have to be rescheduled and definite commitments can only be made once Amandla is in the country.

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