

ANC VIDEO UNIT

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1992-1994

ANC Video Unit Contact:

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gunman:

The ANC Video Unit has four integrated functions.

1. The Unit now produces documentaries: it will begin production of news programmes by early 1992. '
 2. We assume that, in the fairly near future, the ANC will receive time on national television as part of the transition to democracy. The Unit will produce material for these broadcasts, where appropriate in cooperation with other studios.
 3. The Unit will train video personnel from the historically disadvantaged communities, especially women. To that end, it will establish regular training programmes.
 4. The Unit records major events on video, as a source of archive material for future productions and historians.
- To fulfill these functions, the Unit must expand substantially. Specifically, it must add seven new positions and change over to Betacam equipment.

population is functionally illiteratem

Although most South African homes do not have televisions or video recorders, people have access through neighbours, community organisations and schools. In this context, video programmes could help inform people about national and local events; suggest ways to participate in political and social development; and begin to break down racist and sexist stereotypes. Educational videos distributed through community groups could inform people about particular skills or projects.

To this day, the Nationalist Party exercises tight controls over all television broadcasts in South Africa. It only reinforces the grievous divisions in our society. The establishment of "white" and "black" channels exemplifies the bias that the Nationalist Party has built into the television system. "White" news stresses political, cultural and sporting events in the white community, almost always from a Nationalist Party standpoint, to the near exclusion at major political and social developments affecting the black majority. The message to whites is that they need not make any attempt to understand the conditions or perspective of the black community. Even the soap operas aim at separate ethnic audiences. Only series imported from America and Europe address both black and white more or less equally.

In this context, apartheid ensured that few blacks or women received technical video and film skills. The black-oriented stations of SABC have trained some Africans, but a look at their credits indicates their subordinate status.

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The long-run aims of the Video Unit are to provide, first, a source of news, documentary and educational videos that would help build a new South Africa; and, second, to establish training programmes designed to reach the previously disadvantaged and to aid community groups.

Within the next eighteen months, with the support of the ANC and other democratic organisations, we expect to get an appropriate amount of time on television to present news and views of the democratic movement. Until then, we will distribute our product in two ways: directly to community groups; and through sales to the "black" television stations and to foreign distributors.

These methods of distribution should enable us to achieve financial self-sufficiency within three years.

These long-run aims guide our short-term objectives.

1. .Emgnamming

Currently, the Video Unit has a number of documentaries in planning or production. In addition, as soon as the democratic movement obtains broadcast time, we must be able to provide news material for television. To facilitate the transition to regular television broadcasts, we will begin production of a regular newsreel by early 1992.

Each of these activities will incorporate a training programme.

a. Documentaries films:

The Video Unit sees documentaries as a way to bring news of the democratic movement to its constituents in an immediate and uncensored manner. Documentaries let people see their leaders and colleagues in the course of interviews, action and debates. Our documentaries also record our people's history, which for so many years has been distorted and suppressed by the minority regime.

We plan to produce more educational films for specific client groups, for instance on AIDS or particular development projects and skills.

b. News:

The news programmes would draw on two sources of material.

First, the Video Unit itself would maintain two full reporting teams, based in Johannesburg.

. Second, we have budgeted R500 000 a year to buy stories from progressive video groups around the country. This approach would stimulate community-based video productions.

Two national seminars of video groups held in Johannesburg in early 1991 demonstrated the potential for cooperation of this type.

2. Igaining Ezggrgmmgg

Every activity of the Video Unit should have a training component. We will try to reach, in particular, the groups previously shut out of the video and film world - that is, blacks and women.

The core of our training programme would be an apprenticeship process. Trainees would be incorporated in the Unit's work. Where appropriate, the Unit would arrange for specialised courses. Trainees would receive a living allowance. The Unit will also invite local and international specialists in various related fields to work with the Unit and other video groups for four to eight weeks at a time. We would ask the specialists essentially to donate their efforts, so that the Unit need provide only subsistence and travel costs.

In the long run, the Video Unit will attempt to organise more formal courses at local educational institutions, for instance in cooperation with the film programme at Wits University.

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The Video Unit was formed in Lusaka in the early '80s, and established a core of people with cinematographic skills. It transferred to South Africa in 1991. The Unit currently consists of four people. It is based in the Department of Information and Publicity of the ANC. The Unit has not been able to establish its own studio since its return to South Africa. '

Despite the lack of our own space or adequate personnel, we have already completed a video on the ANC Conference in Durban in cooperation with a local studio. We see this video as a way to communicate the debates that arose at the conference to our people.

In addition, we have a number of other projects at various stages of preparation: a documentary on the current violence in South African communities as well as a very short production on the National Peace Accord; a history of the armed struggle against apartheid; and a documentary on poster art in South Africa, which provides a vehicle for discussing the history of mass mobilisation in the past twenty years.

The Video Unit currently consists of four people:

Director/cameraman and administrative head

Video operator and deputy administrator

Sound technician and news coordinator

Maintenance technician

We will have hired an experienced editor by next month.

f . The Unit has a high-band editing suite with a character generator and mixer, plus one U-matic camera and recorder.

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In essence, the Video Unit would parallel the positions of a regular production company. We would encourage all members to participate in creative decisions and to come up with their own ideas for documentaries and news stories. The following details the responsibilities of each position; an asterisk means that we have a person in the position already.

aProducer/director:

Overall supervision of production, including approval of scripts and final approval of products; co-ordination with other organisations; development of training programmes: supervision of accounts for particular projects and the Unit as a whole.

aNews director:

Completion of newsreels, i.e.: co-ordinating news collection; buying and/or commissioning footage from affiliated video groups; editing of newsreels; training programmes related to news broadcasts. The news director would also participate in one of the camera teams, as necessary.

Business manager:

Responsible for financial aspects of all operations of the Unit; sale of material and documentaries; subsidised distribution of videos to community groups; development of training programme in business aspects.

Reporters: .e' n,g

Researching stories, writing scripts and on-screen reporting; and developing training programme in journalism. (Two)

aCamera operators:

Collection of news footage, in coordination with news director and journalists; developing training programme for camera operators. (Two)

Editors:

Oversee technical and artistic aspects of editing for all programmes; develop training programme for editing. Should already have significant experience. (Two)

Sound technician:

Responsible for high-quality sound: maintenance of recording equipment; develop training programme for sound technician.

tEquipment maintenance:

; , Simple repairs, storage and supervision of equipment. We attach the resumes of the existing Video Unit personnel.

In addition to the full-time personnel, the Unit would establish a parallel structure of trainees for most production activities.

The Unit will rent studio space in Johannesburg.

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We need support for five purposes:

- a. To pay for rent on studio space
- b. To upgrade to Betacam equipment, which would improve the quality of our products and let us work more effectively with local video groups.
- c. To buy a second-hand car and meet other expenses associated with operating the studio and transport
- d. To meet salary obligations, particularly to fill the seven empty positions (business manager, editors, reporters, one cameraman and a sound technician).
- e. To obtain a personal computer for use in the office and, . in conjunction with video equipment, for special effects.

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SUMMARY BUDGET, 1992 AND 1993: in U.S. dollars

1. Capital Expenditures

- 1.1 Betacam equipment \$ 446 000
- 1.2 Transport and office equipment 11 000
- 1.3 Security system for equipment 3 000

2. Recurrent Expenditures i ,;J

- 2.1 Salaries \$ 518 000
- 2.2 Recurrent production expenses 397 000
- 2.3 Office and transport expenses 43 000
- 2.4 Contingencies 48 000

. GRAND TOTAL, 1992 AND 1993 \$1 466 000

DETAILED BUDGET, 1992 AND 1993:

1992 Budget

1. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

1.1 Sony Betacam equipment

1.1.1.

i.

vii.

1.1.2

ii.

iii.

iv.

1.1.3

Cameras

Two cameras

BVW-507AP 9 R123 958 each

Two zoom lenses with extenders

A14 x 8.5 6 R23 800 each

Two power controls for zoom

lens; FJ-SS01 6 R12 740

Two mains adaptors

AC-SOOCE 6 R2368

12 batteries; NP-1B 9 R278

Two battery chargers

BC-lWB e R1945 .

Two Sachtler tripods 9 R19 450

Sub-total

Portable recorders

Two recorders

BVW-SOP 9 R98 126

Two 9" colour monitors

PVM-9020ME e R8614

Two mains adaptors

AC-SOOCE e R2368 " 39

Two battery chargers

BC-lWB e R1945

Sub-total

Editing system

Betacam feeder; BVW-65P

Two betacam editors

BV9-70P 9 R130 650

Controller; BVE-600

Switcher; BKE-612

Sound mixer; MXP-290 '

Three 14" monitors

PVM-1442 6 R11 412

Sound amplifier

Two monitor speakers 9 R250

Character generator; VTW-240

B/W preview monitor; PVM-91CE

Sub-total

Sound equipment

Two lapel microphones with

transmitters; WRT-28 9 R5 168

Two hand-held microphones with

R 247

47

25

Uh

38

R 396

R 196

17

R 225

R 113

261

26

14

14

34

in South African rands

916

600
480
736
336
890
900
254
252
228
736
890
442
750
300
758
708
247
236
650
500
000
050
199
336

7

transmitters; WRT-67 9 R4 549 9 098

iii. Two diversity tuner kits

BTA-37 6 R1 283 2 566

iv. Two UHF diversity tuners

WRR-37 9 R18 550 37 100

v. Two ultra-directional gun

microphones; C-76 G R8667 17 334

vi. Two windscreens for C-76

AD-76 6 R2 151 4 302

v. Two handgrips for C-76

GP-5 6 R883 1 766

vi. Two cassette tape recorders

TCD-SPRO G R6459 12 918

Sub-total R 95 420

1.1.5 Connecting cables and smalls R 3 000

1.1.6 Sun gun light with batteries

and charger R 4 275

Sub-total - Betacam Equipment R1 208 590

1.2. Transport and office equipment

1.2.1 One second-hand car R 20 000

1.2.2 Office equipment

i. One personal computer 4 000

ii. One dot-matrix printer 1 000

iii. Four desks e R500/each 2 000

iv. Ten chairs 9 R150/each 1 1 500

v. Four filing cabinets e R250/each 1 000

Sub-Total R 29 000

1.3 Security system R 10 000

1.4 VAT at 10 per cent R 124 800

TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE R1 372 390

2. RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

2.1 Personnel

2.1.1 Eleven full-time e R4000/month, R528 000

including benefits

2.1.2 Four trainees e R1500/month, 162 000

including benefits

2.1.3 Outside experts for training purposes 40 000

Sub-Total R 730 000

b ,

2.2 Operating expenses for productions

8
2.2.1 Purchase of video material R500 000
for news programme
2.2.2 Video cassettes: 40/month GR70/each 33 600
2 2.
. 3 Theft and fire insurance 6 000
for camera equipment
2.2.4 Maintenance of equipment 20 000
Sub-Total R 559 000
2.3 Office and transport expenses
2.3.1 Rent R 24 000
2.3.2 Office expenses 9 R500/month 6 000
2.3.3 Transport expenses
i. One car a R500/month for petrol, 6 000
parking, maintenance, insurance
ii. Air travel 9 R2000/month 24 000
. Sub-Total R 60 000
2.4 Contingencies (5 per cent) R 67 000
TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE R1 416 000
1992 TOTAL R2 788 390
1993 Budget
1. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
Contingencies only R 50 000
2. RECURRENT EXPENDITURES
Recurrent expenditures for 1992 x inflation of 15% R1 528 400
1993 TOTAL R1 578 400
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RESUME

NAME: Zeph MAKGETLA

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Tel.: 330-7150 (W)

614-8945 (H)

PRINCIPLE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

1991

Director, ANC Video Unit

Ptducer, "The ANC's 48th National Conference," video, 60
mlns.

1988-1990

Worked as assistant cameraman on:

- Crisscross (Criss Productions; Director: Chris Manges;
Cinematographer: Ivan Strasburg), forthcoming - filmed summer
1990

- White Palace (Pipeline Productions II; Director: Chris
Mandoki; Cinematographer: Lajos Koltai), 1990

- Fabulous Baker Boys (Glorious Productions; Director: Steve
Kloves; Cinematographer: Michael Ballhaus), 1989

- The Wizard (Pipeline Productions), 1989

1987

Filmed and edited hour-long video of peace activists on tour
in the southern United States; sponsored by Maryknoll Fathers
and Brothers

Occasional work as cameraman on television advertisements

1983-1986

Helped organise Film Unit of the African National Congress in
Lusaka, Zambia

Recorded on video various activities of the ANC, including:
Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Harare, 1986; funeral
of Moses Mabhida in Maputo, 1986; ANC attendance at Moscow
Youth Festival, 1985; funeral of people killed in South
African attack in Botswana, 1985; ANC National Consultative
Conference in Zambia, 1985; operations of the ANC farm in 1
Zambia and the ANC highschool in Morogoro, Tanzania, 1984 and
, 1985

June 1986, co-director, "Youth in the Struggle," video about
the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Soweto

Uprising (ANC Film Unit and Zambian Television, colour, 30 mins.)

Assisted in production of South Africa Under Siege (KQED San Francisco production for Engngling, PBS; director: Steven Talbot), Lusaka and Dar-es-Salaam, 1986

Attended film festivals and workshops in Leipzig, Tashkent and Zimbabwe

EDUCATION:

Masters in Cinematography (five-year course), Hochschule fuer Film und Fernsehen, Babelsberg, Germany, ggm_lgudg. Thesis film: "Lachen, um nicht zu weinen" (colour, 40 mins.; German), 1982

Apprenticeship in photography, photographic composition and laboratory processing, Berlin, 1976-1977 (with equivalent of "A" levels) - 1