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African National Congress

Department of Arts and Culture

Department of Information At Publicity

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Our Ref: 1984-Year of the Women

people's

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PROPOSAL F OR VIDEO TRAININ G AN D PRODUCTION PROJECT

RECEN T HISTORY

The Video Unit is a group of seven people who have been working together as a team for a month. They are beginning to record the on-going history of the members of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) who are in exile. There are similar projects also underway. Radio Freedom is broadcasting throughout Southern Africa. The Eli Weinburg Photography Laboratory is operating from Dakawa.

ROLE OF THE VIDEO UNIT

Television is an important part of the day to day workings in the Department of Information 6: Publicity (DIP) and the department of Arts 6: Culture (Culture). Culture has a catalogued holding of educational audiovisual materials, including a videotape library. There is a limited amount of VHS format playback equipment available for a distribution network. The department needs a larger distribution system in addition to a video duplicating system. DIP deals with the Press on a daily basis. International television networks as well as private television and film producers generate the visual material which describes the ANC to the international community. DIP requires direct access to the means of television production. This is the only way in which the ANC can exert its control over its internal and external communications via television. ANC members are being trained in the video project in order to maintain the on-going functions required for such systems.

PARTICIPANTS AND NATURE OF TRAININ G

Training involves the development of technical television production skills, visual communication skills and administrative skills which the six participants already possess in varying degrees.

The participants have varied backgrounds in journalism, film production and performing arts and have been educated in Bulgaria, Canada and most recently Australia. Funding was secured from A.P.H.E.D.A. of Australia for two of the participants to work with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation for advanced training.

The participants have been carefully selected from different ANC centres within the region so that they in turn will be able to establish systems in their respective areas. Two of the participants have come from Mazimbu for their training. People in that large ANC community (there are now more than two thousand) often gather together to watch videotapes for information, education and entertainment. Dakawa will soon be the site of the ANC Cultural Centre. SOMAFCO, the ANC College, is also located within this community. Video for cultural and educational purposes is a high priority. The Video Unit must operate in Mazimbu and Dakawa to maintain

the distribution of television programming for education and communications. The Education Department in close conjunction with Culture and DIP have embarked upon a Curriculum Development Programme for SOMAFCO and post-apartheid South Africa. Audio-visual material will be produced by the Video Unit. The fact that participants with experience in these locales are being trained is therefore very relevant. Operating funds for the project must include expenses for travel to such locations as Mazimbu, Dakawa, Angola for workshops and production work. The Video Unit is being trained and initially organised in Lusaka. Although the participants will have to travel to the other ANC communities the initial training base of Lusaka has been chosen because it houses the Administrative Headquarters of the ANC. '

PRESENT CAPABILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

The project participants are presently producing and editing original historical material which is recorded on 10Weband 'U-matic' format videotape. Storage facilities are far from archival quality - the atmosphere must be clean and temperature controlled. The format in use is adequate for the first two phases of the project. However, as the video unit gains experience, there will be a need for a format that is acceptable for wider distribution.

Distribution at present is very limited due to a lack of duplication facilities. For example there are only two VHS format recorders available to dub one copy at a time, whereas the video unit must service all ANC communities both in the region and abroad.

Production is limited to only one U-matic unit for location work.

However, basic training is underway and can continue through phase 1 and 2 with an infusion of approximately US \$ 312,000 (three hundred and twelve thousand) in capital expenditure over the next year and an initial annual operating budget of US \$ 81,000 (eighty one thousand), in two phases - January to June of \$36,000 and July to December of \$45,000.

PHASE ONE: January to June 1987

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE: \$ 102,000

OPERATING BUDGET: \$ 36,000

This stage compliments the present production and editing capabilities of the Video Project and creates a wider distribution network for the ANC.

The Video Unit requires a second location production unit (low band U-matic format). This is necessary because of the numbers being trained and at least as a back-up unit. The Unit also requires signal processing equipment for production credits and for para-broadcast editing standards.

Duplicating equipment is essential at this stage for reasons previously stated.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:

Second location production unit \$ 35,000

Time base corrector 32,000

Character generator 17,000

Duplicating equipment 18,000

\$102,000

OPERATING BUDGET:

To include costs of: co-operant, accommodation, transport, travel, consumable material, servicing and repairs, administration and reference and resource materials. '

PHASE TWO: July to December 1987

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE: \$ 210,000

OPERATING BUDGET: \$ 45,000

This stage introduces advanced post-production techniques.

The Video Unit will require access to advanced television production techniques.

The skills acquired in this phase are necessary for working in a large information

network. These production techniques required for wider distribution are more

technically sophisticated. The signal stability requires signal processing, test and

switching equipment and necessitates further education to operate and maintain

the more complex systems properly. It is critical that a new video training officer

is incorporated into the project in June 1987. It is at this time that participants

will be ready for more advanced training and the present training officer (who required

one year's notice and preparation to be integrated into the project) will be able to

help integrate the replacement person before August 1987 when his contract is

complete '

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:

One more camera unit

Switching equipment

Test and processing equipment.....

Studio refurbishing

Upgraded editing equipment.....

TOTAL: \$ 210,000

PHASE THREE: September 1988

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE: \$ 245,000

OPERATING BUDGET: 105,000

The Video Unit builds toward a broadcast quality production and a mass distribution network. -

A new format for production and distribution will have to be introduced into the

Video project at this stage. A broadcast standard format, such as half-inch non-

composite recording (Betacam) will be necessary for international distribution.

The U-matic hardware systems in use in phases 1 and 2 will be integrated with the

higher broadcast standard.

The integration can begin by as early as September, 1988. This will necessitate funding for a portable production unit, machines for format transfer and an editing system. i

At this point the ANC will be training for the nucleus of the broadcasting system for a liberated South Africa.

Budget, as yet not specified, is to cover additional new material required and the increased costs of extra travel for productions.

FUNDING TO DATE

Funding has been received from CUSO and the British Columbia Teacher's Federa-

tion and other solidarity groups in Canada to the tune of over US \$ 20,000 to date.

A.P.H.E.D.A. of Australia has forwarded more than \$ 40,000 for the Video Unit.

HCSA of the Netherlands have contributed over \$ 10,000. This has been seminal

money. The video project requires further funding in order to support the communications