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 IN Tf-(E WING:
 A Na" RADIO-UOICE
 FOR AFRICA, ASIA 6 LATIN WRICA
 A CHANCE TO HAVE BROADGASTED
 TO EUROPEAN LISTENERS:
 - YOUR BOOK EXCERPTS - YOUR NEWS
 - YOUR RADIO DRAMA - YOUR INVESTIGATION
 - YOUR ESSAY - YOUR FEATURE
 - YOUR COMMENTARY - YOUR DEBATE
 BEOOHE A PARTNER IN A MEI TYPE OF
 A PRIVATELY ORGANIZED SOUTH-NORTH-DIALOGUE
 AND ET FAIRLY PAID
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THE DECLARATION

OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY 'RADIO-BRIDGE OVERSEAS'

The cultures of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America constitute part of the wealth of mankind. As a result of colonialism and underdevelopment many of them are endangered in the very existence. It is, therefore, of universal interest that they continue and develop.

Cultural and political development is an integral component for the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America to create conditions of life under which their citizens can live comfortably and self-determined.

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Without such a process it will not be possible for the industrialized world to sustain peaceful and reasonable life conditions as we". Therefore, the cultural and material well-being of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America is in the interest of the European peoples.

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Considering the fact that today millions of people from Africa, Asia and Latin America do form already part of the European society it is of utmost importance to impart knowledge about cultures and conditions in the countries of origin. This will, at the same time, contribute to a peaceful togetherness and to a social behaviour which are determined by tolerance, openness and healthy curiosity.

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The chances for cultural activities, social and political engagement of the peoples in Africa, Asia and Latin America are prejudiced e.g. by limited material resources, lack of communication and interaction in their countries. They are also limited by the overwhelming presence of industrialized powers. The situation is worsened by little readiness of the people in the industrialized world to receive cultural and political messages of people in the South.

VI.

The society intends to help to reduce these deficiencies by establishing a radio-network. At the same time, it intends to develop a quality of radio-programme that will be determined by a conscious, critical and participative interaction between listeners and producers.

Bremen, 15.12.1991

RADKHRIDGE OVERSEAS INFO 1

OPEN EARS FOR THIRD WORLD VOICES

Cultures and ideas of the South are going to get lost on the one-way-roed from the North. It is argued that this trend could be reversed by getting hold of available frequencies in Europe to set up a privately owned non-profit radio-organisation which runs its own network of freelance correspondents and writers in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Views of the South would be reported permanently to a wide audience in Europe which is more and more deprived of a chance to understand needs and aspirations of two thirds of mankind. The radio programme with a focus on culture, politics, economy, ecology, human rights and South-North-relations would be financed by voluntary contributions of a wide range of individuals - organized in a supportive network of private societies worldwide -, by other non-governmental organisations and - later on, when operational - by setting up of a marketing-centre for commercial sale of programme productions in other media-formats (print-magazines / books / records etc).

THE SOCIETY 'RADIO-BRIDGE OVERSEAS'

Initiative has been taken by a group of Germans who discussed the proposed project in depth and founded a society called "RADIO-BRIDGE-OVERSEAS" in Bremen / Germany on 15 December 1991. Its task will be to establish and operate the organisational structure of an intercontinental radio-network, to negotiate with donor-agencies and sponsors and to mobilize private initiatives of support in North and South. The German society will be responsible for international co-ordination of affiliated societies (branches) on all continents which wish to co-operate. It is intended to create a supporting network of such private initiatives worldwide which might operate on the base of a common constitution. All inquiries should be directed to:

"RADIO-BROCKE OBERSEE e.V."

Merssel 65

D-2820 Bremen 77

Federal Republic of Germany

THE GERMAN CENTRE

Negotiations are under way to have the co-or'dinating, administrative and production centre based in the German state of Bremen. Other locations on the territory of the European Community may be considered. The privately organized non-profit radio-station will be the European centre of the envisaged worldwide radio-production-network.

FREQUENCIES / COMMUNICATION

It is intended to apply for radio-frequencies in Germany and later on in other-countries of the EEC. At the same time experts are looking into possibilities of getting access to an European audience using other technical means (e.g. cable / satellite / programme packages for existing radio-stetions etc.).

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Considering the ambition to offer for the first time a daily radio programme (starting in Germany) which links Europe with 3 continents it seems advisable to use most modern communication systems offered for example by "INMARSAT", a London based satellite-service operating since 1982. Small and mobile earth stations allow interference-free data-, fax- and voice-transmission. 4 mobile units and permanent hire of satellite-channels could constitute the co-ordinated "heart-beat" between the continents. Such mobile units would, furthermore, provide an opportunity to move from time to time the Southern centres to other locations on their continents. It is suggested to approach national and multinational companies with the aim to get essential communication-hardware and studio-equipment donated. Organisations like the European Community and agencies of the United Nations which have aid-programmes of such nature will be approached as well. If necessary, efforts had to be limited, during the first phase, to old-fashioned telephone- and telefax-communication, whereby high quality records had to be air mailed.

THE CENTRES IN AFRICA, ASIA S LATIN AMERICA

It is suggested to station the Southern centres in Harare / Zimbabwe, Kuala Lumpur / Malaysia and Santa Ana / Costa Rica. The initiator of this project is working in Zimbabwe since 7 years and has already established an information network. Harare is, at the same time, Africa's base of the "Inter Press Service" (IPS) with which the project intends to co-operate closely. Kuala Lumpur represents a place where 3 important Asian communities are living together: Malays / Chinese / Indians. This allows direct access to traditional and modern cultural expressions of a wide variety. Furthermore, the centre would offer an advanced communication technology. In Santa Ana international radio training and production activities are already existing, partly sponsored e.g. by UNICEF. Every centre will be equipped with efficient studio and communication facilities. An experienced broadcaster on the spot will be tasked to co-ordinate a continental freelancer network and the daily and long term programme production. He also liaises with national radio stations for a possible programme exchange. Training of freelancers and procurement of recording- and communication-equipment for them must be considered.

THE PROGRAMME

Daily transmission may cover 6 hours, 3 hours will be dedicated to reports, analyses and debate of North-South-relations as they can be observed in Europe. Most of these programmes will be staged live in front of a public audience. A special format will be live performances of cultural events and live presentation of investigations by their authors to be debated with the audience. It is further intended to present works of literature - such as dramas - and music in live-transmissions. Activities and initiatives of individuals and NGO's concerning North-South-interaction will be covered as a permanent component of the programme. The situation of women and children will receive special and continuous attention. A forum for exchange of ideas will be initiated. The 3 centres in Africa, Asia and Latin America will occupy daily one hour each. Their contributions will be discussed during weekly editorial communication with the centre in Europe.

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It is intended to open daily at least for 30 minutes a live-link with each centre for current affaires items using a magazine format which will contain pre-produced topics and live-oontributions of the relevant freelancer network. This includes a daily news bulletin and a press review. Correspondents are requested to report about regional and international events from their point of view. They have, however, to bear in mind who the recipients of their messages are and, therefore, have to concentrate on relevant and professionally produced background information. They should also reflect on North-South-relations and should offer explanations why developments and ideas may be differently viewed. It is intended to set up a computerized mail-box-network which can be used for fast communication and for sending of scripts written in the relevant working language. This asks for a high degree of discipline and reliability on the part of the freelancers. Scripts for the daily magazine will be translated and produced in German (and later on in other European languages) as a permanent task of the Southern centres. A technical system for delivery and use of sound-material will be worked out. Medium and long term planning will allow adaptions of more elaborated cultural and political programmes - such as dramas and features - in the European centre. Such programmes will be the main supply from the 3 continents. The co-ordination centre in Europe may link up directly with freelancers and other sources. Live debates via satellite with eminent personalities (simultaneously translated) will engage well prepared panels of the public in South and North. Authors should also focus on portrays of individuals and groups of people in their region which can tell common but revealing stories.

THE STAFF

One special need of employment in the European centre will be a highly qualified a team of translators (English / French / Spanish / Portuguese) who have to work on original scripts and must be able to translate simultaneously during live interviews and debates. Other experts have to be responsible for developing and up-dating archival systems (sources / sound / music etc.). Public relations of the project will be handled by an officer whose task may include observation of "Third World"-reporting in other European media. At the same time he may propose exceptional cases of such reporting which could get regular attention through an annual award sponsored by the project. Each centre in the South must employ at least a broadcaster (fluent in German) and an experienced technician. It is necessary to draft alternatives for an employment-framework which includes, of course, a permanent team of producers, technicians and administrators. A budget calculation has to consider competitive salaries, office-, studio-, communication- and travel-expenses as well as a sufficient pay-scheme for authors and artists in all 4 centres.

GET INVOLVED!

CONTACT THE GERHA! SOCIETY!

INITIATE A BRANCH IN YOUR COUNTRY!

QNTRIBUTE AS A FREELANCER!

L T I K E !

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ALI A. HAZRUI / KENYA:

(CULTURAL FORCES II IORLD POLITICS' / HEIEMI, MW I mm KENYA, MIMI / MES CURRY, LW / M / p. 52-63)

"The world has since discovered that it is within the prison walls of two new absolutes - the state system and capitalism. Those who have wanted to abolish capitalism by capturing the state found themselves captured by the state. When socialists capture the state, it is not the state which withers away; it is in fact socialism.

What is the way out of this maze interconnecting the absolutes of capitalism and the state-system? The most promising solution lies neither in a new God standard nor in a revised gold standard. It lies in the androgynization of both and in the partial feminization of the state. It seems probable that the androgynization of church, state, and economy will substantially moderate the tendency of each to become absolutist. By the very nature of their predicament, women cannot seek to replace men. Women are condemned to a quest for political and economic equality rather than political and economic monopoly.

The retreat from the excess of the Semitic heritage and the abuse of the Anglo-Saxon legacy may require the equal status of women as both guides and commanders.

Let us conclude with the imagery of three ships in history: the 'Bounty', the 'Titanic' and the 'Californian'. They are symbols of a world in partial communication. On his Britannic Majesty's ship 'Bounty' there had in fact been tyranny under the rule of Captain William Bligh. In desperation the men ultimately rebelled in the same year that the French people did - 1789. The mutineers on the ship overcame the captain and his supporters, put them in lifeboats, let them loose on the sea, and took charge of the ship themselves. The 'Bounty' attempted to disengage from the international nautical system, and to keep its distance from Britain's laws, after the mutiny. The mutineers retired to an island, an exercise in primordial delinking, a severance of communication.

Today the world itself is an island - no mutiny on the 'Bounty' can be an escape in its own right. No mutineers from the 'Bounty' could find refuge in such stark terms. The world is now faced with 'omni-communication' - if it only cared to listen. The tragedy is that of expanded communication and diminishing dialogue.

Our other image of a ship is that of the 'Titanic', the supposedly unsinkable vessel which sank on its maiden voyage when it hit an iceberg on 15 April 1912. There was another ship nearby, the Leyland Liner the 'Cah'fornian', less than 20 miles away from the stricken 'Titanic'. The radio of the 'Californian' was switched off that momentous night, and its crew could not hear the distress signals from less than 32 km away. Once again human beings failed to rescue each other because they had switched off avenues of communication.

You may have noticed that all three ships, the 'Bounty', 'Titanic', and 'Californian', were 'Anglo-Saxon'. But none of the captains or the radio operators were women. So what? If I were a Semitic prophet in the grand tradition, I would describe all this as 'a parable'.

The fate of humanity may indeed depend upon creative communication and androgynization of the command structure. Those social movements which enhance contact and communication and those which seek to expand the role of women may turn out to be the most critical of them all. A greater role for women is needed in the struggle to tame the sovereign state, civilize capitalism, and humanize communication.

To the question 'What is civilization? it may one day be possible to answer, 'humane communication in a truly androgynized world'..."

LET US SWITCH ON NEW AVENUES OF COMMUNICATION

TOGETHER - MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH

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