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BRIEFING 17.02.93 ON (1) DAKAWA ARTS AND CRAFTS PROJECT.

(2) MALCOLM x PREMIERE

DAKAWAART AND RAFT PR E T

I attended two meetings over the weekend in Grahamstown at the Dakawa Arts and Crafts Project:

(i) A workshop on a community based youth programme was held on Friday the 12 th :

a Brief speech was made by Joe Manana on the state of culture in South Africa at this time as well as the role of ACAC. The meeting had invited approximately 50 community based organisations to attend the meeting, the turnout was however very poor , but it was decided that the people present should look at the proposal noting however that:

a) That this youth programme was not the key thrust of the Dakawa project, but more of means of involving the youth of this area in various aspects of culture ; and

b) That the venue that would be used for this programme was in fact the exhibition hall and shop of the project, and therefore only available on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

The suggested programme includes courses in Drama and Theatre, Ceramics, Fine Art, Textile Printing, Graphics and weaving. It would further entail one and half hour lesson every weekend for a period of 15 weeks every six month period , whereafter an evaluation of the progress of the children will be made. This programme will be staffed by trained teachers in the disciplines as well members of the trainees of the project to assist them.

The general feeling at the meeting was that 2 things should be done before embarking on this project:

i) A Skeleton proposal of the programme should be sent to all the community centres and structures, churches and schools for discussion together with an invitation to a workshop where a final draft will be drawn up and ratified for implementation; and

ii) A questionnaire should be sent out with a researcher as to the cultural needs of the community centres, structures, schools and churches which will be presented at the next workshop. The date for the next workshop will be forwarded as soon as the executive have more clarity on the time frames that are needed to complete these tasks.

(ii) A Dakawa Arts and Crafts Trust meeting was held on the 13th of February 1993 , Joe Manana (ACAC) and Inger Heldal (NPA) were present. The following issues were discussed

Bernard has accepted the position as maintenance officer of the project and has been on three month probation period in this position as from January 1993. A weekly performance chart will be drawn up in consultation with Bernard for this period.

A half yearly report was given to all trustees by Malin , she explained that this had been written especially for SIDA in order to motivate for the balance of the 1992/93 budget's release.

It was reported that a fair rent for the houses occupied by Malin and Vusi was R300.00 (Malin) and R450.00 (Vusi) respectively which fell well in the housing allowance of R500.00 per month that was agreed to in the previous trust meeting.

It was also agreed that the following posts should be advertised and filled as soon as possible, Co-ordinator Graphics, Co-ordinator Weaving , Administrative Secretary and Office/Kitchen caretaker. All posts will be advertised in the New Nation and the local newspaper The Herald. The trust have agreed that the three consultants from Sweden should be allowed to come for this six month training period , they are Barbara Berther, Kristina Anshelm and Anne Giertz. As of the next period local teachers should be found. The classes first phase classes will start on the 1st of March. They received approximately 900 applicants for positions.

The trust felt that they should seek guidance from the DAC and in particular Gordon Metz in respect of the Exhibition Hall's use during the Grahamstown Festival. Should they be part of the mainstream or the fringe of the festival or not at all. If they should be part of the festival will ACAC organise an exhibition.

Dakawa will be exhibiting at the International Solidarity Conference from the 19th to the 21st of February 1993. Cde Vusi and two trainees will man the exhibition. Lebona will also be present at the conference and will be speaking to representatives from Danida in respect of the Youth programme.

Dakawa Trust have also filled in membership forms to join ACAC. Princess from Rorkes Drift has issued an invitation to me to come to Rorkes Drift to see their project. She also asked Joe to come and speak to the Trustees at Rorkes Drift about joining ACAC.

The date for the next trust meeting was not set but will be in

approximately 3 months.

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I spoke to Roger at UIP re: the possibility of co-inciding the release of the Malcolm X film with the CDC and making it a major fundraising event for the ANC. He agreed to this , but at the time that we spoke the date we were speaking about was May the first , Workers Day. The idea was that Gala Premiere's/fundraisers could be arranged in five cities simultaneously which could be linked up by television and have key speakers at all venues. The Johannesburg event would be at a venue of 1000 seats and arrangements should be made that Malcolm X's wife should attend this. Roger agreed that he would arrange all Cinemas in consultation with this department. Once we have more clarity we should finalise arrangements. I have since read in the papers that Spike Lee was planning to come to South Africa this year, possibly this could be arranged to co-incide with this event.