

axgvaofa t . 91-5w
26th. March 1984.
Comrade Thabo Mbeki,
Director,
D.I.P.
ANU,
Lusala.

Dear Comrade Thabo, _
tNVuM

Ref: SOKAFCO PHOPOGRqPHIC MONTAGE x14

I received a copy of your letter to Cd. Makgothi concerning the above subject, and want to thank you for your careful and constructive criticisms of the montage produced in the Eli Weinberg Photolaboratory.

Your points are well taken and your comments will be passed on to the photographer, David Brown. He is as you know, fairly newly arrived here and still needs political guidance. He is very enthusiastic and talented and has made a great difference to our publicity work for donors and support groups.

We have given him a fairly free hand, but agree with you that certain aspects of his work must be looked at more carefully before distribution.

I will ask David to try to acquire some of the magazines you recommend but 13 you have any particular ones in mind which you feel are a must for his development, please let me know of them.

In the Year of the Women,
Mohammed Tikly
Director
c.c. Education Secretary.

141, , 'LLJL'
070 African National Congress
/ wIz 0 1982 1 3th
The Director
ilazixnbu COidpleX
.13. 1'18 Zi M11011
anoro gore.
7 61%1984;
Lear Coznrxde 13101111111111ed,
rez Som lfco 1104001111 1110 Nonta;2 e
-._-_____-__B ____-__-.__-__-__9
Te are enclosing copy of letter from the Director,
Department of Information and iJublicity.
The letter raises important goints Which are useful
for &mprovinw the production of our photo lab. We trust
lab of comments tl lereIn.
that you will inform Che colr:ldes 1101-1111_:113Mt,hgphoto
ydla.
IV
Henry I.
Education.
Seoretarl
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AN D CULTURE
P..O BOX 31791 LUSAKA ZAMBIA
TELEPHONE: 211169 and 219656/7 TELEX: 45390

2 2 FEB1 19811

African National Congress
Lusaka, 17/02/1984.

The Secretary
Dept of Education
Lusaka.

Re: SOMAFCO PHOTOGRAPHIC MONPAGE.

Dear Comrade,

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of a phoLOgraphic monLage done by
SOMAFCO'S Eli Lileinberg Studio.

We believe that the efforts of Lhe comrades in this regard must be
commended aha Lheir talents nurtureq,

In saying this however we wish Lo point out certain serious political
Land aesthetic uhortoomihge in Lhim particular montage. Our remarks in
this regard are intended to assist the comrades to improve their work.

A photormontage is basically the narration of a story using phoLOgraphic
elements. ILs approximaLe equivalentS could be said L0 be reportage
(as distinct from report) in journalism or collage in fine arts.
(photography is boLh a journalistic genre and an art form).

This basic function of phoLomonLage seems to have been fulfilled
if we assume thaw the intention is to potray the continuity and
inter-relaiionship of our struggle in the work being done at and
through soreh'eco.

The defects as we see them, are in the maiter of political etiquette
and narration. The mounting of Lhe phoLos is. unforLunaLe in that it
placoa in prominence Lho laLe Chief in juxtumporibion and equal
prominence LL) 0110 1116111011 11110110qu 1.1 L110 idea. mus Lo poLray continuity
M

the current Ereu iuent of Lhe A110 is O. R. Tambo. Phis is futher come
, ,vLiLn- ,7-

pounded by placing an ou.LduLod phoLo 01' the preeident, LogeLher
wiLh late heroes and leaders of our struggle whilsL ImieLaLing (we
believe) Ode Brian's photo for that of Cde Bram.

PD. BOX 31791 LUSAKA ZAMBIA TELEPHONE: 219656/219667 TELEX 45390

Further the poKrayal of past stnugnlosrige;an r gp;nion not epfficiegtly
representative when taken in relation to the section on JOKA?CO.

/.rr'

/

To nubstantiute,n Lhe selection on BONAECO shown labour, education,
culture ubc wherouu Lhasa arc ubucuh Lu u large extent in uhu aoution
on past struggles.

Another point to make is on sequence and flow. We instinctively read from
left to right and most people are right Landed, so that they held whaiever
they are reading/viewing in the right hand. This reinforces reading from
left and biases image - impression on the brain from the left. This is
the reason why most lead stories in newsphpers are placed left. This has

..

serious implicabion5\$for sequence in photomontage and it mus suffice
to only mention it here as otherwise we m'" become lengthy and verbose
in our critique.

'We recommend highly that the comrades should be assisted to obtain reading
Ublicity perception, art,

and stuey maierial on sycholomicel es ectcs of

photography, etc. (there are numerous magazines on amateur photography
which usually give highly valuable tips on all eSpects of photograMuy).

Once again we commend the comrades for their very promising efforts and look
forward to mov such work. We do ofcourse hold ourselves available for-any
asuistanee needed that could be rendered From our endo

Forward in the Year of Women.

/ I

l

T. mbeki.

Directorc