

Nam/001/001/29 1st of 2 pages. 21.5.91

TO CDE ABBEY CHIKANECHIEF REP NAMIBIA  
FROM: GWEN ANSELL

Greetings to all!

1. Following this sheet is a copy of my memo/report on the Conference organising aspect of my trip. I'd be grateful if you could copy this for the relevant Namibian structures.

2. Following our 'phone conversation on Friday I did listen to the news, and note that you are in a rapidly developing diplomatic situation, the implications of which I can well understand. Please let us know soonest if you feel this might adversely affect the prospects for the tour, or if you feel that in the circumstances a more politically "neutral" South African performer might be more appropriate. I would understand.

3. There are also one or two problems this end. You may remember I mentioned to you that certain elements were unhappy with the democratisation process the Department instituted in Amandla, and were trying to reverse this by means of rumour-mongering about, among other things, my own conduct. This has now reached a high point of personal attack. While I have the support of the Regional Political Committee and the Regional Cultural Committee here and of the DAC in Jhb in this matter, I feel it's only principled to inform you about it, since it's adversely affecting my relationship with Amandla at the moment. If you want "references" about my reliability as a person to continue working with, I suggest you contact Cde Premi Appalaraju (RCC and DAC Representative in Zimbabwe - tel 302958). She can background you on this tale.

4. However, assuming that we do go ahead, the following tasks remain (further to our 'phone conversation)

4.1. Job description for Lesley Kozungura

- Secure booking of venues on dates we've suggested
- Secure support artists for gala & stadium shows & notify me of cost
- Organise printing of posters
- Send info so I can print programmes and tickets this end
- Organise production of banners
- Hire stage for stadium show (SWAPO R1500)
- Keep plugging away at the issue of airplay for record & video (in liaison with Nina Weill). There is a much slicker "Amandla in Japan" video which I don't have; I have faxed Japan to ask if it's possible to mail a copy of this direct to your office in Windhoek - but no response yet.

4.2 Job description for Bricks Cdes

- Arrange support staff (road crew; cultural animators for kids' shows; front-of-house assistance)
- Arrange accomodation (in liaison with Cde Andre) & notify me of cost
- Arrange transport (in liaison with ANC office & SWAPO)

4.3 Jobs for ANC Office

- Organise production of T-shirt & distribution & sales (you get the profits) in liaison with Lesley
- Communicate!!!!
- Lobby for more sponsorship in liaison with Bricks/French

4.4 My jobs

- Provide & fax you artwork for T-shirt (ASAP)
- Write press releases, draft ad texts etc
- If I can get down, distribute press releases, organise press briefings, interviews etc etc; hassle the media to keep covering our story. If not, send you a package & add to Lesley K's job description. But I do it better than anyone else: that's my profession.

Anyway, I will return to Namibia. I liked the place & the people too much & want to see more of it.

Yours in the struggle. *Gwen Ansell*

c.c. Amandla Committee/ Harare DAC/Jhb DAC/ Cheif Rep Zimbabwe/

Namibia Bricks Project/ Lesley Kozungura. N.B. COPY SECTION 4 ONLY AS RELEVANT TO THESE CDES.



TO: Cde Jonah Gokova  
Lutheran Network for church & liberation in Southern Africa (Frontline States programme)

FROM: Gwen Ansell  
Regional Cultural Committee, ANC Zimbabwe

Report on visit to Namibia - re: Conference on the Repatriation of Cultural Workers

(Apologies for this report being 2 weeks' late. I arrived back into the production deadline period on the magazine for which I work, and haven't had time until this week to prepare it.)

I visited Namibia under the auspices of your project to set up contacts for our proposed Conference on the repatriation of cultural workers. Unfortunately, my trip was rather shorter than the originally planned one week: the flight was delayed for 48 hours by rescheduling due to the Trade Fair, and then the Wednesday of my visit, May 1, was a public holiday. Effectively, I had 3 1/2 working days in Namibia.

However, despite this I succeeded in making contact with the relevant cultural structures, and we have formed some plans for delegates to attend the meeting.

I met with the following:

Cde Andre Strauss, Deputy Director of Education and Culture, Govt of Namibia  
Cde Naphthali Uirab, Co-ordinator, Bricks Community Project  
Cde Leon Beukes, Cultural Co-ordinator, Bricks Community Project  
Cde Lesley Kozongura, Interim Committee, Namibian Union of Musicians (the union only held its first congress on May 11, after I returned to Zimbabwe)

We discussed the Conference, which they felt was a worthwhile and necessary contribution to the process of building post-liberation cultural links between the new South Africa and the rest of the region. They pointed out that the SWAPO cultural group, Ndilimani despite having good musical training, was experiencing real problems of finding and organising work in the new Namibia because of a lack of familiarity with the management and organisational skills needed to function professionally; they would have benefitted from such a Conference and follow-up programme. They also said there was still a lack of information on the resources offered by South Africa and the ways in which progressive cultural workers in Namibia and SA could link up. Bricks had sent one actor to train with the Afrika Arts Centre, but they felt there must be many more opportunities which could be utilised. Cde Strauss in particular stressed that such a conference should not be seen as an end in itself, but must make plans and provisions for a follow-up programme, so that contacts made are developed and used.

The suggestions for Namibian representatives which were made to me were:

- One "name" performer - e.g. Willie Mbwende or Jackson Kaujeua - who experienced professional success overseas while in exile and has now returned to try and develop a professional music scene in Namibia.
  - One Cde from Ndilimani
  - One performer from a community music or theatre group
- plus (if funds for tickets can be raised to cover 4)
- One community cultural organiser/animator.

I regret the shortness of my visit, which meant that ideas could not be exchanged in any greater depth than above; I think nevertheless we have established good foundations. May Day in any case gave me a chance to see the performers of the Bricks drama project in action - they were inspiring and entertaining. I was also able, on my return, to inform the Zimbabwe Union of Musicians about their Namibian counterparts' founding congress, and I facilitated for a solidarity message to be sent.

As for the Conference dates; we are still awaiting news from UNDP about when the funds may arrive. We are using all the channels we can think of to speed up this process, and we will let you know as soon as we make progress.

Many thanks for your assistance with airfare for this trip.

*Gwen Ansell.*

c.c. → Cde Max Mlonyani, ANC Chief Rep Zimbabwe  
Cde Abbey Chikane, ANC Chief Rep Namibia  
Cde Premi Appakreju, RCC/DAC Zimbabwe  
Cde Wally Serote, DAC Jhb  
Cde Andre Strauss, Deputy Director of Education & Culture, Namibia  
Cde Naphthali Uirab, Bricks  
Cde Leon Beukes, Bricks  
Cde Lesley Kozongura, Namibian Musicians' Union

May 21 1991