

2.M/029/0007/02

TO: Amandla Committee
FROM: Gwen, PRO
SUBJECT: Press & Public Relations.
DATE: 10 April 1991

Thanks everyone for the effort you put into Tuesday's BBC interview. I know you were all tired, but in terms of promotional mileage I think the work will be worth it. And at least for once, unlike ZBC, we didn't have to pay or bribe anyone to get it !

However, there are one or two points we need to think about.

1. CHANGE OF VENUE

As your PRO, I would appreciate it if you consulted me over changes in PR plans. I had chosen a rehearsal hall for the following reasons:

- a) MOST IMPORTANT ! The accoustics are much better. A low-ceilinged, carpeted room does not do our voices justice, as you will appreciate when you hear the rather wooly tape Veronique has.
- b) Comparative quiet of Luck St. setting at night.
- c) We do not want outsiders seeing the rather untidy, shabby conditions we live in
- d) Behaviour tends to be better away from home

Is it really too much to spend a maximum of \$45:00 (3 hours @ \$15) to ensure a much better advertisement for ourselves ? In any case, we should have discussed it.

The change of venue at such short notice made it impossible for me to contact Cde Steven Chifunyise of the President's Office, who was also invited. This is grossly discourteous to him, and to our Zimbabwean hosts. Indeed, I was not even informed, but only heard second-hand from Veronique about the change, half-an-hour before the appointed time. Cdes, you do have my work phone number, please use it.

2. LATENESS AND ILL-PREPAREDNESS

The time of the interview was 8:00. We were not even ready to start until 9:30! We are fortunate Veronique had no other appointments that night, or we would have lost the opportunity.

Although I had told the committee at our meeting on Wednesday 3rd April that she would be asking for personal experiences of life in Angola and on tour, only one of the 3 people you selected to speak was able to speak on those issues. We mustn't be frightened of these types of questions: they are not an attack on us -- but human beings make interesting radio, and robots saying "We had no problems" do not. With preparation - which I assumed you would have done - you could have worked out things to say which made good propaganda for ANC but were also lively, interesting and human. We must also be more democratic in our choice of people to speak - why are we not bringing on the younger Cdes so that they are also able to participate? Radio needs a variety of voices; TV will need a variety of faces, ages, shapes and sizes. We must be prepared.

3. BOOZE

I think we need to review our behaviour, when the first question Veronique asked me afterwards was "Does Amandla have a serious drink problem, because I could smell it so strongly on the breaths of the guys -- especially the little one ?" My nose told me the same as hers. This is the second alcohol-related complaint I have had in two weeks: Bruce at 7 Arts commented very unfavourably on the numbers of bottles in the dressing rooms.

Comrades, no-one is saying we should not drink -- but we must exercise self-control about when, where, and how much. Just before an interview is not the time. Even if singers need a little gin to loosen up the vocal chords, those being interviewed will have their faces 6 inches from the interviewer and should abstain !!!

c.c Cde Max Mlonyeni
Cde Mike Dlamini (assistant PRO)
Cde Premi Appalraju

FILE.