

To: UDF National Head Office
From: UDF Western Cape region (publicity and media)

Baw 2

UDF - VIDEO PROJECT

From the inception of the UDF as a national political formation in August 1983 the struggle against apartheid and for a non-racial and democratic South Africa has assumed greater impetus and been qualitatively heightened. As a variety of democratic organisations united around the common objective of opposing the implementation of the new apartheid constitution so new and exciting opportunities for deepening the struggle emerged. Previously disparate organisations joined in common action and campaigns. The roots of progressive politics extended to new and occasionally hitherto unexplored areas (Eg. OFS and parts of the Cape Rural areas) The overall aspirations of the oppressed could be articulated through a single national voice and to more effectively confront and engage the central government. A consciousness of national unity is a pre-condition of meaningful change was kindled amongst tens of thousands of ordinary coloured, Indian and African South Africans. In addition to these and other factors qualitatively heightening the struggle against apartheid are the possibilities for educating and mobilising democratic forces internationally which have opened up given the emergence of a coherent internal voice of the people.

It is a historical fact that the successful isolation of the South African minority regime through consistent and tireless campaigns by anti-apartheid forces internationally has significantly weakened the position of various racist governments over the years.

Progressive forces, who are committed to isolating South Africa internationally need a constant flow of information on developments in South Africa.

Obtaining clear accounts of the developments of political movements are especially important given the ways in which the mass media in South Africa generally obscures and misinforms on the real nature of our struggle.

Democrats mobilising support for this struggle need to develop/maintain a "feel" for the concrete conditions obtaining here so as to guide the nature of their support more strategically.

In addition up to date accounts presented in accessible and dynamic ways should be invaluable in winning over new recruits to the numerous anti-apartheid organisations overseas.

Over the past 2 years progressive organisations have increasingly used videos as an organisational tool and means of communicating their message. They have proven to be an effective, cheap, accessible, dynamic and transportable means of communication.

We would therefore propose the production of a video which illustrates the following aspects:

1. The launch of the UDF, the strategic objective, range of organisations affiliated, and responses at a mass level.
2. The campaigns and activities of the UDF illustrating its emergence as the "voice of the voiceless" actively engaged in their daily struggle for democratic control over all aspects of their lives - management committees, community councils, Ciskei.
 - a) Service activities - people's weekend.
 - b) Major political campaigns - anti-election campaign, a victory for the people.
3. The structures of the UDF. Democracy in the Front. General Councils, National Executive Councils, rural areas, area committees.
4. UDF laying the basis for a fully fledged people's movement to emerge. Popular struggles taking shape invariably situated within a broad UDF context. Vaal Triangle and other examples of popular mass struggle.
5. Despite repression we shall continue. Ominous noises from the government, parts of leadership in jail. Yet confident of winning the great battles which lie ahead.

If, as has been proposed, CVRA (Cape Town) executes the project these are some of the factors to consider.

1. All the film footage CVRA has available was shot in Cape Town and surrounding areas.
2. 90% of this is of mass meetings and rallies.
3. 10% consists of footage on organisation's campaigns, street and house

3. interviews, organisations in the South Cape (Oudshoorn, Willowmore)

4. They will at short notice be able to film "contextualising" material. District 6, Crossroads, Khayelitsha, unemployment queues etc.

5. To contextualise and cover UDF on a proper national scale they would need to be strongly assisted by other regions.

1. Sympathetic international TV crews should be approached to make whatever relevant footage, shot on video, available to CVRA.

2. Individuals who have privately taped SATV footage on Vaal unrest, Le Grange's speech etc. should lend these to CVRA.

3. Local video agencies should be approached to film certain UDF activities in the coming two months.

6. It should be noted that much existing footage has been shot in low grade, low budget footage in difficult circumstances and this will have an effect on the quality of the eventual product.

7. Time schedule would roughly involve collecting, shooting, buying and and recording/lending footage in December/January period. Editing the final product would occur in February.

8. Very rough budget breakdown would involve:

10 tapes at R20.00 each	200.00
2 Pneumatic tapes	170.00
Editing machine time	2000.00
Travelling (depending on requirements)	500.00 - 1000.00
General machine time. (cameras, equipment etc.)	1000.00
Labour - 2 x R500.00 (1 month salary)	1000.00
Extra purchased film and sundry	1000.00
TOTAL	R6370.00

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