

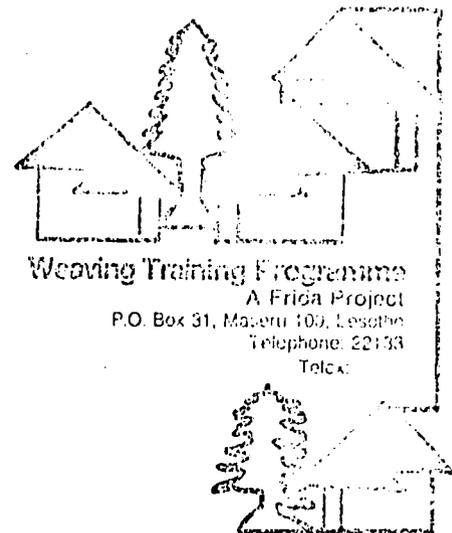
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TO : USAID

FROM : LYNN WILLIAMS - FRIDA-WEAVING  
TRAINING PROGRAMME

DATE : 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1980

SUBJECT: THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT



Some of the involvements of the Weaving Training Programme this last quarter have been covered more thoroughly in special updates sent to you earlier so I will only mention those things again briefly.

Chris Mohapi returned after a months marketing tour of the US with George Millard, our Marketing consultant. Chris returned with feedback gathered from diverse sources in the US as well as orders from Lesotho's mohair products. The response to Lesotho's tapestries was generally positive. The Producers now have the responsibility of filling international orders promptly and with quality products.

Lisebo McCarthy (along with Thabo Mautsoa - Sculptor - funded by Barclays Development fund) attended the World Craft Council (WCC) Biennial meeting in Vienna, July 25 to August, 1980. Although Ms. McCarthy attended as a representative of Lesotho's handicraft sector, she was asked by Mr. Daniel Cobblah, President for Africa - WCC, to act as Chief Delegate for Lesotho, in the absence of Mr. Sam Montsi, LNDC. The meetings and information disseminated were so extensive that it was impossible for only two delegates to cover everything offered. Ms. McCarthy came home with a good perspective on how Lesotho's crafts fit into the world's market. She also has a better idea of Lesotho's involvement with WCC and the importance of development of liason with other African nations in the future. Her own report of the conference will be forwarded to you.

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The film produced by Arabella Simon and Jack Sheedy was finished and sent to Vienna to be shown at the conference. The film is Super 8 format, 13 minutes long. It illicit response through photography and actual sounds of everyday life in Lesotho. The intention is to show the connections between the people/culture of Lesotho and the handicrafts produced here. Ms. McCarthy showed it to two different audiences and received a very good response to it.

This first copy of the film came back from Vienna with Ms. McCarthy and immediately went off to Berlin with Chris Mohapi to be shown at a trade fair there.

WFP is having copies of the film produced in several formats to broaden the possibilities for future use. These will include Super 8 reel, Super 8 cartridge (for continuous showings, no rewind necessary), transfers to 16 mm and video cassettes for use by interested persons, i.e. American Cultural Centre video player. WFP has purchased a Technicolour Showcase 8mm projector. This machine, the size of a large briefcase, has a screen within the unit. It runs on a cartridge so it can play continuously without rewinding. It will be excellent for use at other shows, trade fairs or related happenings.

Simon/Sheedy have been asked to show the film in the US to such groups as the World Craft Council, Religious Council for the Arts of the United Church Board, UN Lesotho Delegation, National Council of Negro Women. George Millard plans on using the film in his promotions also. When copies of the film are finished and sent to Maseru we will have a get-together so the many people involved in its production can also experience it.

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In June WTP received International Voluntary Service (IVS) volunteer Christabel Jackson, who is working with us as weaving adviser. We expected two volunteers but due to circumstances only one arrived. Ms. Jackson spent two weeks visiting all the workshops and then two weeks of orientation with a bit of basic language training. At the beginning of August she began working directly in the workshops, her first assignment being Thabong Weavers in Masianokeng.

The first job was to gather friends and vehicles one weekend and physically move Thabong from their old premises into a new workshop built for them by Canadian aid. The new workshop is in a better location at the junction to Roma.

Thabong is a cooperative workshop greatly in need of assistance at all levels. Ms. Jackson's work there is all inclusive; she has a realistic attitude and a lot of mental and physical energy. Many positive steps have already been made. However, by having her directly in the workshop we have become aware how varied and complicated many of the problems are in this particular workshop. One person working here for a few months will very likely make only minor and possibly temporary changes. Ms. Jackson will stay at Thabong longer than the original intended 2 months as their needs require it. Next she will move up to Sekakes to Boithuso Weavers another small workshop.

Having Ms. Jackson working with us has made the need for better communications and cooperation between the workshops and the marketing people (Lesotho Cooperative Handicrafts (LCH) and Kingdom of Lesotho Handicrafts (KLM)) even more apparent. We plan to follow this need closely in this last quarter to help insure a good liason here. Lisebo McCarthy will be working directly with Chris Mohapi and KLM during this time to help in this area.

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The Handicrafts Advisory Committee (HAC) is accepted and supported by the government. Mr. S.T. Mota, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Coops and Rural Development is now Chairman of the Committee, with Mr. Lelala, Commissioner of Coops, also attending. The objective of HAC is to act in an advisory capacity for formulating policy for the handicraft sector. A copy of the by-laws of the committee were sent to you earlier. Meetings continue on a monthly basis (first Tuesday, 9.00 a.m.) with sub-committees meeting as necessary.

A statement of intent regarding training in Lesotho handicrafts was compiled by WTP in conjunction with LHA members. It is concluded that a training centre is necessary here. Training should cover handicraft techniques as well as management skills. Management/supervision in workshops is a priority problem within existing workshops. Although a training centre is seen for the future, more volunteers working directly in the workshops, as Ms. Jackson is now, is seen as a temporary solution in expanding and improving Basotho skills within the handicrafts sector.

There have been numerous stumbling blocks in the production of a Weaving Resource Manual in Sesotho. We now have permission and assistance from the International Labour Organization (ILO) - Geneva to translate Bjørg Kristiansen White's Weaving Manual completed after her work at Thabana-Li-'Mele. The original intention was to have the translation and printing done at Lesotho Distance Teaching Centre (LDTC). However, when I obtained permission for printing and went to LDTC to begin work, they could not do the work as they had earlier promised. It became necessary to find our own translator and look for alternative printers.

The corrected version of the manual is currently being translated to be finished September 30. In October it should be typed and ready to go to a printer, probably Morija Print Works. The cost is higher but they do quality work and ILO is willing to give us some financial assistance to see that it gets finished by the end of December. The binding will be stronger also.

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The "My Lesotho" Art Contest, coordinated by Lisebo McCarthy, in conjunction with Ministry of Education, Anglo-American and Lesotho National Tourist Office (LNTO) held an Award Ceremony at the Basotho Shield on August 22. Students were awarded prizes donated by various merchants and interested organizations; certificates were presented by the Permanent Secretary of Education, Mr. Mats'ela.

There has been interest from several of the weaving workshops to use the winning and honourable mention drawings in tapestries. Many of the non-winning, but still good drawings are also being used by the IVS volunteer as teaching aids for new designs in weaving. The winning drawings will also be printed into a calendar distributed by LNTO.

An unfortunate incident in our office was the robbery of our petty cash box, including the donated prize money and cheques. Some of these monies had to be replaced by WTP. Many of the cheques had payment stopped and can be recovered. The matter was investigated by police and may be covered by office insurance.

Two workshops will be coming up in September and October. Two persons from JOBS (Johannesburg Organization to Boost Self-help) who also work with DEVCRAFT, an organization that markets African handicrafts, will conduct the workshop. The workshop is to help weavers here gain an understanding of what is involved in selling their work, once it leaves the loom. It is to stress the weavers' responsibility to quality control, good finishing techniques, pleasing use of colour and design, keeping up with the market. The consultants Iain McNeill and Magauta Mofokeng will hold two days of sessions at the Victoria Conference Room and use the rest of the week to visit workshops for individual problems.

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In October ICA is bringing in Ms. Nancy Hemingway for several days. Although I have seen an example of Ms. Hemmigway's work at a South African Wool Board Exhibition in Johannesburg, we do not know much more than she is arriving in Maseru late in October. Duane King of ICA has not been able to give us any additional information about this particular presentation. However, they have asked us to incorporate this presentation into the WTP.

During the last several months I have met and talked with managers at Roarkes Drift and Mantenga Crafts in an effort to see if some collaboration could be possible in the future.

However, their needs are as great as ours, and at the present time each is having its own difficulty holding its own.

WTP had visitors from Mozambique, who came to see what was being done in handicrafts in Lesotho. Two were young male weavers who went to Royal Lesotho Tapestry Weavers for several days to work with them. We visited many of the local workshops, and surprised many local weavers who did not believe that men could or would weave. Their visit was for a week.

We also had a visit from ILO Chief/Jasleen Dhamija who is interested in our project and the involvement of women in Lesotho in handicrafts and small industry to support themselves.

Our main push for the next quarter will be printing the Resource Manual, working with Christabel Jackson and setting up her involvement in various workshops which will later be carried through by MIA, and working closely with KMI to implement George Millard's recommendations and help relations with the producers. We will also be winding down for the WTP office to close at the end of December 1980.