

BRIEF REPORT ON THE 9TH BIENNIAL WORLD CRAFTS COUNCIL
CONFERENCE VIENNA AUSTRIA FROM 25TH JULY TO 1ST AUGUST, 1980

Background:

The World Crafts Council was founded in 1964 with the assistance of UNESCO. It is an International, non-profit, non-governmental federation of National Craft Organizations in 84 member countries throughout the world.

WCC Conference in Vienna July 25 to August 1, 1980, under the theme "Crafts Tomorrow" had set out to "fulfill its purpose of strengthening the status of crafts, to foster the international fellowship of craftsmen/craftspeople, to encourage a professional exchange of ideas and information and to create a spirit of discovery, exploration and adventure"

Lesotho's membership at the World Crafts Council is now of six years standing. Memberships fees of \$250 per annum are duly paid. From the point of view of the Weaving Training Programme, Lesotho's participation at the 9th biennial WCC Conference would be beneficial in that, Lesotho could ascertain the benefits of belonging to The WCC. Also to establish the good of future participation by Lesotho's crafts leaders and craftspeople.

Lesotho's representation at the WCC is as follows; The Kingdom of Lesotho Handicrafts is the member body with Mr. Sam Montsi, LNDC Managing Director as the National Delegate and Karen Jo Nelson of FRIDA as the correspondant. LNDC's address to the WCC has been given as the most convinient.

EXECUTION OF THE VIENNA CONFERENCE

The General Assembly's first session was on July 25, 1980. The session opened with the President's welcome. A call for National Delegates and the Agenda approved. Prior to the first General Assembly meeting. I had had a meeting with Mr. Daniel Cobblah President for Africa and advised him that there were only two people from Lesotho namely Thabo Mautsoa - Sculptor and myself. It was during this meeting -

with Daniel Cobblah that I was asked to, while at the conference in Vienna, act on behalf of Mr. Sam Montsi LNDC Managing Director National Delegate at WCC. I pointed out that I had not come prepared for acting as chief delegate for my country. Mr Cobblah insisted that Lesotho would not sit back and suck its thumb (to use his own words).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE 9TH WCC CONFERENCE VIENNA JULY 25 - 1 AUGUST

There were three General Assembly sessions (see attached Agenda). I think it would suffice here to say that all matters arising from the sessions of the General Assembly will be recorded by the WCC Secretariat and distributed to all National entities.

THE AFRICAN ASSEMBLY OF THE 9TH BIENNIAL WCC CONFERENCE IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA JULY 25TH - 1ST AUGUST, 1980. SOME PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF THE AFRICAN ASSEMBLY MEETING(S) VIENNA AUSTRIA 1980

1. "The problems facing the African Assembly include - administrative problems at local levels affecting effective representation and participation by individual countries, and the lack of effective communication between constituent countries and even groups and associations within each entity". The above statement was delivered by the Vice President for Africa Mr. Daniel Cobblah .
2. "There was need to identify the organisations responsible for craft development in each African State and make use of the existing systems and facilities for cooperation and communication".
3. " that it was difficult for most African countries to assess the advantages of belonging to the WCC and felt that some move should be made to spell out the benefits in concrete terms.

The above problematic points arising out of the African meeting needed immediate attention and a sub-committee was set up to look into these and present recommendations to the 10th WCC assembly. The sub-committee; Zambia, Nigeria,

Senegal and Lesotho presented the following recommendations on the problems (1 and 2 above) of administration and communication.

1. (a) That a Regional Directory of National Entities involved in crafts be drawn-up and that this move be initiated by the Regional Secretariat before the next assembly.
(b) That the Regional Secretariat/Vice President reconfirms with individual States/Governments the status of applying or existing national entities.
2. That for the Secretariat's effectiveness, the host country should provide an adequate annual budget for the Secretariat's operations.
3. That the Regional Vice-President should be assisted by three Deputy Vice-Presidents who would coordinate projects and communications within the sub-regions and that the region be divided up into North; West and Central; and East and Southern areas.
4. That the Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Presidents for the Region should be elected after every two years at the WCC General Assembly.
5. That National Entities should endeavour to contribute towards a Regional newsletter.

While the sub-committee of the African Assembly was able to make the 5 recommendations above on the administrative structure for the Region, there was limited time for working out recommendations concerning the third question of the benefits of belonging to the WCC. However, on writing-up the African Assembly's Resolutions for the WCC's 9th General Assembly and the "Declaration of Vienna" the Lesotho delegate observed that, according to the Bylaws of the WCC, Article 1. Principles. Paragraph two "The aims of the World Crafts Council shall be to offer encouragement, help and advice to craftsmen and to foster wider knowledge and recognition of their work with due regards to the separate cultural and national backgrounds and tradition of its Members".

out to the African Assembly that the question of benefits derived from membership to the WCC could be included in the African Assembly Resolution. (see attached paper on Resolutions by the African Assembly of the World Crafts Council at the 9th General Assembly and Conference of the World Crafts Council held in Vienna, Austria from July 25 to August 1, 1980)

NATIONAL REPORTS BY CHIEF DELEGATES TO THE AFRICAN ASSEMBLY.

The national reports were given verbally. As acting chief delegate for Lesotho, I also gave a situational report on craft activities in Lesotho and made it clear to the African Assembly that, Lesotho's spontaneous report was not necessarily official. "Lesotho had no Government organization for the formulation of policy (for the handicraft sector). A committee for ameliorating this position had already been set up".

I was making reference here to the newly founded Handicrafts Advisory Committee (HAC) which will, among other things,

- (a) ~~to~~ act in an advisory capacity to government in formulating policy for the handicraft sector.
- (b) To advise on the implementation and execution of training programmes for the development of handicrafts in Lesotho
- (c) to disseminate information to all handicrafts associations on government plans and strategies concerning handicrafts development.
- (d) to promote cooperation among (craft) producers by developing an interchange of information and
- (e) to focus attention on specific issues and needs within the handicraft sector".

THE AFRICAN ASSEMBLY MEETING ZAMBIA 1981

Liberia has offered to host the 1982 10th Biennial WORLD CRAFTS COUNCIL CONFERENCE. There will be great activity during 1981 in preparation for the 1982 WCC Conference. This will be the first time in the history of the WCC that its conference is

held in Africa.

There is need, therefore, for the African Assembly to meet soon and work out plans for the 10th WCC Conference in Liberia. Among other things that will be discussed at the African Assembly meeting will be, implementation of some of the recommendations made in Vienna, a theme for the 1982 WCC conference and an election of the sub-regional deputy Vice-Presidents. A provisional agenda will be issued to all national entities of the African Assembly.

The African Assembly meeting in Vienna then suggested that this meeting be held in Zambia and requested the Zambian Chief Delegate to approach his government on its behalf. The Chief Delegate for Zambia promised to present this request but pointed out that, even if his government agreed, conferees would normally be expected to bear responsibility for their own board and lodging. The meeting is scheduled for April, 1981.

INTERNATIONAL AID ORGANIZATIONS

There were ad hoc meetings between members of the General Assembly and International Aid Agencies. The Aid Agencies outlined the different structures of their aid programmes with especial emphasis on crafts and crafts development. Many members of the General Assembly expressed great dissatisfaction with regard to some of the Aid Agencies' policies. As a direct result of these meetings, a seminar on International Aid Programmes is to take place in the very near future. (notification of this seminar will be sent to all national entities)

Through these meetings with the representatives of the various Aid Agencies, I made contact with Mr Camilo Antonio, Projects Officer of the Vienna based UNIDO Office, who was anxious to discuss matters of financial assistance to the development of crafts in Lesotho. Mr Antonio suggested that my office discuss this matter with Mr. David McAdams, Resident Representative UNDP Maseru and Mr S. Montsi, UNDC Managing Director. The discussion with Mr Antonio was with a view of funding a phase II of the Weaving Training Programme or toward funding crafts development programmes in Lesotho.

Other aid agencies mentioned were, to mention but a few UNIDO and UNCTAD (Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique) A.C.C.T.

IS composed of French-speaking countries but is now expanding into the English-speaking countries as well: The Crafts Department of AGE COP finances projects for crafts Development, is responsible for international exhibitions, training of artisans and also make provision for technical assistance in many areas including those of marketing, administration and promotion of exchange between groups and artists. To reach financial assistance from AGE COP, a national entity could channel a request through the (African) Regional Secretariat of the WCC. Such a request would normally be sent before October, which the end of AGE COP's financial year.

EXHIBITIONS

There were many well organized exhibitions at the Vienna conference. I was particularly impressed by Nigeria, Ghana and Peru who not only captured a lot of attention but also sold many of the items on their display.

I am inclined to believe that, had Lesotho put up an exhibition of her tapestries and other crafts, she would have had an opportunity of exposing her unique handwoven mohair tapestries to 3000 participants of the WCC conference.

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

There were numerous seminars, panel discussion on crafts administration, crafts tomorrow, slide shows etc. all running simultaneously. While I was able to attend a few; Nigerian Textile Designs, Crafts Tomorrow and Inspiration for Tapestry Designs, I had become deeply involved with the African Assembly business to afford the rest my full attention. There is need therefore, for Lesotho^{to} be well represented at the WCC conferences to enable us to get and contribute as much as possible.

LESOTHO'S CONTRIBUTION/EXPOSURE -FILM "LILLOHI TSA BASOTHO"

"Lilohi Tsa Basotho" or Basotho Weavers was produced for the Weaving Training Programme during the Programme's March 1980 seminar in SHERRA, T.V. The film is a good representative of nearly all the handweaving workshops in the country. Through this film, Ms Simon has achieved many things at one time, i.e. While the film shows mainly the tapestries of Lesotho, it shows, at the same time, the culture, traditions, the every-day activities and the beauty of the mountain Kingdom of Lesotho. These are

then seen woven into tapestry. This film and slides were presented twice in Vienna. On the first occasion, the attendance was low but the response was good. On the second occasion however, I called my presentation "The Living handwoven Tapestries of Lesotho" The attendance was amazingly high and the response overwhelming. It is difficult to know whether the high attendance was due to the new title or whether those who had seen the film/slide presentation on the first occasion had talked about Lesotho's tapestries. Many questions were asked about the weavers, the Basotho and Lesotho in general. Thabo Mautsoa and I handed out to many people the address of the Kingdom of Lesotho Handicrafts, Lesotho's main marketing outlet.

FUTURE PARTICIPATION BY LESOTHO AT WCC CONFERENCES

Though Lesotho's crafts are not as developed as those of Ghana or Nigeria for an example, Lesotho has her mohait tapestries as a very good and unique sellable product. Most African countries are very active in the WCC and this helps them with exposure, recognition and general information on crafts activities and development. Perhaps Lesotho could also use this means to achieve some of the points made above.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That business relating to Lesotho's participation/representation at the WCC's affairs (presently administered by LHDC) could be shared by the newly founded HANDICRAFTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE who would be responsible for:

- (a) Fostering higher participation by Lesotho at WCC conferences to ensure fuller coverage of the activities.
- (b) Sending a member of the HAC to WCC African Assembly meetings to deputise for the Chief Delegate Mr Mont's when his programmes and business matters unables him to attend such meetings. This way, a person deputisi will be fully conversant with problems, programmes and developmental strategies in the handicrafts sector of this country.

RECOMMENDATIONS CON'D

- (c) For exhibitions at the WCC Conferences, the HAC could help to advise and ensure that Lesotho is crafts are well represented. As a body the HAC could raise funds for craftspeople from Lesotho to attend these conferences to learn and improve their crafts. This type of exposure is invaluable to craftspeople.
- (d) That HAC contributes to MARKET TALK a newsletter put out by KINGDOM OF LESOTHO HANDICRAFTS and that this newsletter could be Lesotho's contribution to the Regional(African) newsletter suggested by the sub-committee of the African Assembly meeting in Vienna and that such a newsletter be sent to the Crafts Magazines globally and have copies send to the WCC Bulletin.

Lisebo McCarthy/Weaving Training Programme

WORLD CR. FTS COUNCIL

Organization
JESCO, Category A

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

for the 9th Biannual Meeting of the General Assembly of the
World Crafts Council in Vienna, Austria

Venue: Conference Hall at Oberlaa, Vienna

First Session: July 25th at 3.00 P.M.

Second Session: July 26th at 3.00 P.M.

Third Session: August 1st at 2.00 P.M.

- . President's welcome
- . Approval of agenda ✓
- . Voting rights for member countries / revised resolution attached
- . Roll call of WCC member countries present
- . Ratification of new member countries
- . Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the General Assembly in Kyoto, Japan, September 1978
- . Reports from the Vice Presidents
- . Secretary General's report
- . Treasurer's report
- . Principles for member contributions to the organization / European recommendation distributed /
- . Information on the election of Vice Presidents and Deputy Vice Presidents
- . Resolutions and recommendations
 - A. Amendments to the Byelaws
 - a) Election of the President
 - b) Article 5, General Assembly, Section VII, subsection (a)
 - B. Joint resolution from Canadian Crafts Council and Crafts Council of New Zealand, resolution from Crafts Council of India
 - C. Proposal of declaration suggested by the Vice President for Latin America
 - D. Resolutions from the Polish member entity
 - E. Recommendation from the Polish member entity
 - F. Resolution from WCC / Cyprus
- . Guidelines on the future policies of the WCC
 - a. basic services offered by Headquarters
 - b. Special projects:
 - Exhibitions (Arctic crafts project)
 - Publications
 - Others
 - c. Cooperation with other organizations (Design Coordination Group)
 - d. WCC meetings:
 - International conferences
 - General Assemblies
 - Other meetings
- . Rules of procedure for future meetings of the General Assembly
- . Election of President
- . Other business
- . Closing of meeting

Resolution by the African Assembly of the World Crafts Council
at the 9th General Assembly and Conference of the World Crafts Council
held in Vienna, Austria from July 25 to August 1, 1990

We members representing the African Assembly of the World Crafts
Council:

Recognising the declared objectives of the World Crafts Council to
offer encouragement, help and advice to craftsmen, to foster wider
knowledge and recognition of the work of craftsmen with due regard
to their separate cultural and national backgrounds and traditions;

and being
Convinced that these declared objectives and principles require
sympathetic understanding of the many complexities of the cultural
entities constituting the African Region and the need for meaningful
interaction based on mutual reciprocity of ideas and assistance;

Affirm our continued confidence in these objectives, and our firm
commitments to the ideals of the World Crafts Council with the con-
text of the region's realities, and inspired by the strength and
resilience of the African craftsman which have seen him through
colonialism and other onslaughts on his cultural existence, also
affirm our determination to re-order our strategies and structure
for more effective pursuit of these goals and

Urges the World Crafts Council, as a matter of great urgency, to
spell out its programmes and aspirations to national entities in
more concrete terms and in consonance with Article 1 of its Bylaws
so as to enable meaningful reciprocity from the constituent govern-
ment and national entities, and

Declare our support for the on-going moves by WCC to encourage
greater participation by national entities, and inject efficiency in
the operations of the Council at large, and

Express our gratitude to the Secretary General of the Council for
undertaking a tour which we believe has brought to sharper focus the
need of the African Region to the greater enrichment of the work of the
World Crafts Council.

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and to the Austrian Crafts Council for a successful hosting of
this World Assembly, and finally;

Express our regrets at the indisposition of the President of the
World Crafts Council, the Lord Reilly, and wish him a speedy
recovery.

BEST AVAILABLE DOCUMENT