

APPENDIX A

EXPLANATORY NOTE AND UPDATE – April 30, 2010

1. On Monday, April 26, Jim Carney met with UBC archivist Chris Hives. The UBC archives contain a huge quantity of video tape material generated by or associated with the 1976 intergovernmental conference (UNCHS Habitat) as well as by the NGO Forum at Jericho. Much of it comprises speeches and discussions featuring some of the most eminent people in HS and related fields at that time. Much of it was accumulated by UBC's Centre For Human Settlements under the direction of the late Prof. Peter Oberlander. Upon the closure of UBC/CHS' viewing facility in the Library Processing Centre the material was turned over to UBC archives. Most if not all of this material is comprehensively catalogued by both the CHS Viewing Facility (Ross Nelson-1980) and by Chris Hives. The CHS Viewing Facility's UMATIC video tapes of the 218 national government AV presentations were later transferred to UBC archives' storage facility in Surrey where they now exist in terms of ONE video tape of each of the 218 government presentations. Chris Hives retrieved about two dozen of the Surrey tapes; it appears they include no English language versions. The sampling included primarily Spanish and French.

It's not known where the English-language versions are, or even if they exist.

2. In March, Peter Boothroyd and Tom Radford, a former NFB film producer and head of its Edmonton studio, attended WUF V in Rio de Janeiro. While there Tom encountered a couple of senior UNCHS staff (one of them Sharad Shankardass – see item 1 in the Summary of e-mails). who reported that some elements of the '76 Habitat AV materials existed in a "vault" in Geneva. Sharad and/or his associate agreed to report on the Geneva situation but no such information has been received, while Tom Radford has been recovering from recent knee surgery.

The next action point would seem clear: to determine specifically what exists in Geneva. If it consists in the 16mm film prints of a substantial part of the '76 government films in reasonably good condition - the ideal source for digitizing- we would be very lucky, but it seems a bit much to hope for. Nonetheless we need to know what exists in Geneva, so as to determine our options.

3. It should be noted that digitizing the non-English language versions of the UMATIC tapes stored in Surrey would still serve an important archival and even anthropological purpose. The images and activities remain valid for research, compilation and teaching purposes regardless of language and some deterioration of image quality. English language tracks could turn up at any time. The inventory remains a unique body of work and deserves to be preserved for further generations of students and researchers.