1975: The Year The World Has Its Picture Taken

Focus on Human Settlements in Developing Countries

"Habitat's audio-visual programme is becoming a reality — and an exciting and innovative one at that. "Its role in communicating human settlement problems and their solutions will make a dramatic contribution to the conference in Vancouver. "One needs to see a vision before one can become a visionary, and the film and slide presentations which are being prepared all over the world will provide Governments with a vision of what changes can be made to improve the way their people live and the motivation to make those changes. "Pictures speak loudly of injustice, of want, of pain and helplessness. And the pictures which will be shown as the audio-visual component of Habitat will demand a response and supply a multitude of ideas for solutions. "I have stated that what is needed to solve the problems of human settlements are the political decisions at the national and international levels, for most of the technical solutions are available or can be easily available. The audio-visual presentations will convince the policy-makers that this is a fact." "I am very pleased to note the increasing commitment to the audio-visual programme. Since July the number of participating countries has increased from 97 to 116 and the total presentations now number 210. Of these countries 65 have requested and been granted financial assistance and more requests are expected to be on their way. "From its inception, the Habitat Secretariat has recognized the importance of all countries, but especially the developing ones, in formulating a consensus for change. Their place in the audio-visual programme is prominent and great care has been taken that limitations of technology not prevent full and meaningful participation. "In some ways the full story of Habitat's audio-visual programme will not be reflected at Vancouver. For its significance lies not just in the final result but the way in which it was reached. The film production creates an activity in the countries centered around Habitat. Each country has been encouraged to mount its own production, and in so doing a great opportunity has been given to aspiring, young film producers all over the world. I am proud that even in the process of creation the audio-visual programme has helped to achieve a conference goal."

Habitat Thanks UNDP Res Reps

Communication and cooperation are what Habitat's audio-visual programme is all about. Neither would be possible once the task force of international film experts left New York, without the invaluable assistance of United Nations Development Programme's Resident Representatives. The Resident Representatives in Latin America, Africa and Asia are contributing substantially to the success of the audio-visual programme. They are acting as contact people between the Habitat field producers and the Governments, providing communication facilities to link the globe-trotting producers to home-base in New York. And they are dispensing and controlling the financial assistance from the United Nations to the Governments. Without their efficient and continuous help, it would not be possible to transfer the audio-visual presentations from promises on paper to the reality of film.

We are immensely grateful to the Resident Representatives, who, individually and collectively, are doing so much to spur the audio-visual programme to a successful conclusion.
Overall Settlement Film From Afghanistan

The presentation by Afghanistan will feature projects ranging from irrigation and supply of potable water to housing construction and town planning. Here Afghan Films cameraman, Habib Kawyani, is pictured at work on one of the locations.

Botswana Cottage Industries Curb Migration

In a mere 18 months some people of Oodi Village, outside Gaborone, have changed from unemployed unknowns into famous weavers of blankets and tapestries which are prized throughout Southern Africa and abroad. What’s more, all the people of Oodi benefit from the new handicraft — for the profits go back into the development of the village, and the result is that people stay there instead of migrating to the city.

The story of Oodi Village will be part of Botswana’s presentation to Habitat. Focusing on rural-urban migration, the slide presentation will feature new employment schemes in villages like Oodi, the youth brigade system in Serowe and site and service schemes in Francistown. While the latter deals with the problems brought on by migration, the first two seek to prevent it by providing employment in rural areas. For a country which has one quarter of its male workforce employed outside it, providing new employment is a major concern.

“Our points are not ambitious,” said Leyla Tengroth, who heads the audio-visual team of three. “You will not fall down in admiration at the size or scope of our projects. They are small, like Oodi Village or the tannery in Pilane, but they are good. They work.”

Oodi Village is quite different from the usual privately run small industry. In 18 months the workers are expected to have paid back the capital cost and own their factory. One quarter of the net profit goes into a Village Development Trust, which is lent to people of the village. And there is a determined effort that weaving shall not supplant agriculture in the village.

“There was a bit of jealousy between weavers and non-weavers,” Mr. Peter Gowenws, the administrator, admitted. “In a village where 20% of the working age people are not working, that’s natural. We try to take only one person from a family, and since we’ve started to build the cooperative store, the village has been more united.”

The only trouble with Oodi, a government official opined, was that it was unique. He doubted that it could be repeated elsewhere in Botswana, but the effort would certainly be made.

Wide Range Of Settlement Problems Portrayed In Bangladesh

A wide range of human settlement problems will be portrayed in Bangladesh’s audio-visual presentation to Habitat, including population, urbanization, migration and natural disasters.

A salute to the energetic commitment of that country’s producer, Mohebbur Rahman, was published in the first issue of Audio-Visual.
Colombia's Enlightened Approach To Spontaneous Settlements

One of Colombia’s oldest and now legalized squatter settlements is called Las Colinas because it stands on three hills. But Las Colinas means much more - for it represents a new attitude of a Government seeking to deal with the demands of rural-urban migration. Instead of removing the squatters forcibly or ignoring their existence, as had been the practice until 1967, Bogotá’s city administration has sought to integrate Las Colinas into the community. And that effort will be one of Colombia’s four audio-visual presentations to Habitat.

They came as an invading army - 500 families in all - and overnight they set up their houses. They did not expect Government help and did not welcome Government intervention.

“We were treated as the enemy,” an official from the Popular Housing Fund said. “And it took a long time to gain people’s confidence. First, we provided essential services, then we gave home improvement loans. Some of the people never accepted the loans and others who did over-extended themselves so that their two and three story dwellings remain unfinished.”

Evaristo Obregon, audio-visual coordinator, stressed that while providing infrastructure was important, people cannot become a productive part of the community without training for employment. That additional development in Las Colinas is still going on today in the community centre, run by S.E.N.A., which provides home-making courses for women, reading and writing courses for men and a host of activities for children.

Alternating between being a church, a school, a theatre and a public meeting hall, the centre is an integral part of Las Colinas. It was there one of the (former) squatters said: “We intend to make Las Colinas a showcase of poor communities in Colombia, perhaps in all of South America.”

Ramiro Cardona, a sociologist, whose NGO organization will be producing a parallel film on minimum norms for Habitat, observed that much can be learned from spontaneous settlements. “Their organization is good, they have a rational use of services and they have a rich and dynamic community life,” he said. “I think we can use the experience of spontaneous settlements in planning new Government programmes.”

The people of Las Colinas would be very pleased.
Urban Coastal Development In Cyprus

Promotion of urban development in a more orderly fashion is the theme of two Cypriot films for Habitat, according to Lysandros Avraamides, producer. On location in Larnaca, Mr. Avraamides (foreground left) supervises the sequences for the film on development of urban coastal areas, with Pavlos Pavlou, the film’s director, and cameraman Andros Zembylas. One of Habitat’s audio-visual consultants, Gurdayal Asthana is in the background.

Water Makes Village Flourish In Dominican Republic

Six years ago only thorns thrived on the arid land of Fondo Negro, starvation was a grim reaper and anyone who could fled to the city. Today, this same small rural community, 100 miles outside Santo Domingo is flourishing; it is attracting people to it instead of causing them to flee, for the land has become “a field of hope.”

The story of Fondo Negro, and its success in stemming the tide of rural-urban migration, will be one of the Dominican Republic’s audio-visual presentations to Habitat. No one pretends that with this one project for 30 families, the Dominican Republic has solved all its human settlement problems. But as one sociologist said: “If we had 100 Fondo Negros the life of the peasant in this country would be tremendously improved and we wouldn’t have such overcrowding in our cities.”

Like many Latin American countries, the Dominican Republic has seen its cities crack under the strain of massive rural-urban migration. People flood into capital cities seeking jobs, which are not there, needing shelter, which cannot be found, creating a demand on the social services, which cannot be met.

That is why Fondo Negro holds such promise. There, the Dominican Development Foundation and private enterprise joined forces to irrigate the land, provide modern technology and produce a cash economy which the people had never before enjoyed.

Frank Marino Hernandez, audio-visual coordinator for the Dominican Republic, emphasized that his film wouldn’t say “everything was jolly everafter.” In the first year the cash economy disrupted family life, as many of the men went off and spent the money. The second year the crops of tomatoes and peanuts failed but the third year the profits from a successful crop went back into the community and a new life took hold for the people of Fondo Negro.

As one farmer said: “We still have our problems but after 20 years of being hungry, it is good to be able to eat your fill.”

Frank Marino Hernandez reviewing the rushes from his first week’s shooting. Oscar Correa Bevenino from the national planning office and Teofilo Barreiro, a consultant sociologist, discussing the project with community leaders in Fondo Negro.
Ecuador Creates New Life In Countryside

When two-thirds of a city’s population growth is due to migration and that city is the capital of a country, the need to reverse the trend and make rural life more attractive cannot be ignored. That is the situation in Ecuador, where its two main cities, Quito and Guayaquil, have been stretched to the breaking point.

One of Ecuador’s audio-visual presentations to Habitat will depict three projects designed to improve life in the countryside and hence stem the tide of rural-urban migration, as well as showing an attempt to alleviate the plight of marginal settlements already established in the city of Guayaquil. The three rural projects are in Predesur, Picase and Licto.

“The deterioration of rural areas in Ecuador has been going on for some time,” said Christian Cordova of Quito Municipal Council. “Although the majority of Ecuadorians still live in the country - 65% of them - the cities simply cannot absorb any more immigrants. We must institute an effective agrarian reform to give people the technical and financial means to make life in the country more attractive.”

In Predesur the Government initiated a project to enable comprehensive agricultural development and create a reforestation programme. Three provinces in Central Ecuador, where mortality and illiteracy are very high, are being helped by the Picase Project. And in Licto, in the Sierra mountains, the emphasis is on improved living conditions and community development.

“Whereas the three rural projects are an attempt to prevent migration,” Martha Duenas, Habitat coordinator said, “the Predam project in Guayaquil is an effort to solve the problems caused by migration once it has taken place.” She stressed that underlying all the projects is the desire to get people involved and actively participating in the problems of development.

Economic Control and Community Development in Costa Rica

Inyo Niehaus, scriptwriter/director, and Victor Vega, national producer, editing their film entitled ‘Banana Republic’ which deals with the economic foundation for development of settlements in Costa Rica. The second film from this country will portray the national organization for community development in which great importance is attached.
From Village to Megalopolis: The Human Settlement Process

At first glance, Habitat’s audio-visual presentations seem so diverse - ranging from a reforestation project in Thailand to improvement of a spontaneous settlement in Colombia - that they are divorced from each other. But closer scrutiny reveals a pattern which connects human settlements around the world. That pattern could be called the human settlement process. And through it one sees that development problems and solutions in many different countries and times are very much the same.

Rural-Urban migration is a reality which is dramatically changing the face of the globe. The world’s peoples are on the move from the village to the megalopolis and very few return. Cities, with their density of activities have become magnets, attracting ever-growing masses of people in search of employment, education, improved social services and a better quality of life.

Overpopulation in urban areas is the result. The promises of city life are seldom fulfilled and new arrivals find themselves in slums or spontaneous settlements. The cities simply cannot absorb the enormous influx and their services crack under the strain. Shattered dreams and old frustrations greet the newcomer.

Depopulation in rural areas is the corollary, for rural-urban migration is a double-edged sword. The most ambitious members of a rural community are attracted by the cities’ pull and their exodus hastens the decline of the village. Lack of employment, education and other social services are some of the reasons why people leave. Providing these opportunities is a means of making them stay.

Demonstration projects are one of the ways in which Habitat will document these trends. It is hoped that the 200 presentations of them in the audio-visual programme will dramatically demonstrate both problems and solutions and underline the wholeness of the human settlement process. We cannot treat the problems in isolation. They are all interrelated.

Ghana Learns Importance of Peoples’ Participation

Ghana’s Volta River Dam at Akosombo is a massive structure and a formidable achievement. Not only does it provide electricity for a nation and its industries, but it generates enough for export. As a result of the dam and consequent creation of a 3,275 square mile lake, Ghana has a flourishing fishing industry and irrigated agriculture.

But the dam was a mixed blessing to the 80,000 people who were moved from their ancestral homes because of it. This massive resettlement project, together with the sister scheme at Terna, is Ghana’s audio-visual presentation to Habitat.

“The project was viewed as an ideal opportunity to undertake an exercise in social and economic reorganization,” said Frank Akogyeram, the audio-visual producer. “The Government ensured that no one was worse off when the resettlement was completed; in fact, many have housing and services which they had never dreamed of before.”

However, a resettlement scheme of that size was not free of difficulties, as it demonstrated the influence of tradition which every modern planner must take into account. Dr. E.A. Boateng, the Executive Chairman of the Environmental Protection Council, has stressed the need to make Ghana’s audio-visual presentation reflect all aspects of the resettlement experience.

“The people didn’t object to being moved,” said John Osei, the welfare officer of the VRA on the site. “It was more a question of being moved with whom. We had to make extensive inquiries to determine who owed allegiance to whom, and to consider their tribal traditions. For instance, the burial grounds had to be moved with the villagers.”

While some of the 52 resettlement townships have a thriving community life, others show signs of stagnation and decay - as people have deserted new housing and social facilities for the booming fishing trade on the lakeshore.

“It is certainly a success in terms of planning and economic potential,” said Mr. Osei. “But my advice in a similar scheme would be that resettlement should go along with and in advance of construction of a dam. Governments should try to get the people involved so that they resettle themselves, instead of us resettling them.”
Turning Miners Into Farmers
An Honest and Admirable Assessment From Guyana

When the foreign-owned manganese mine closed in Guyana's Northwest hinterland, the Government had two options: to accept the influx of job-seekers in Georgetown, where unemployment was already high, or to find a new industry to keep people in the region and perhaps even encourage migration to it. The latter course was followed and the story of Matthews Ridge, of how the Government sought to mould wage-earners for self-employment, miners for agriculture and forestry, individualists for cooperativism is the subject of Guyana's audio-visual presentation to Habitat. It is a subject which illustrates the complexity of human settlement problems and the challenge of creating a totally new community.

Physically, the Government had a head-start, for the existing infrastructure, including roads, electricity, communications, housing, a school and clinic, was good. The task of clearing the Equatorial jungle to create farmland was enormous, but that was accomplished and the richness of the soil soon yielded crops for export. Although 180 mining families left Matthews Ridge, the Government encouraged migration to the region in several ways, concentrating on young people.

However, few miners were successfully transformed into farmers and migration to the isolated area has been disappointing. "It requires a pioneer spirit," said one official, "as well as re-education."

Hutton Archer, audio-visual producer, said: "We realize we don't have a story-book situation at Matthews Ridge, but that's precisely the point. Matthews Ridge represents a great number of challenges in terms of human settlements - and the greatest of them are very human. It is difficult for a coastal person to adapt to life in the mountains, and for a city person to cope with the isolation. But if we can overcome some of the problems, it will be a significant learning experience to the country as a whole and perhaps to others as well" - which is exactly the point of the audio-visual programme.

Rudi David, director of the film (left) discusses the shooting script with the national producer, Hutton Archer, and script writer, Audrey Lowe.

Workers' Welfare Central Concern In Honduras

When the Government of Honduras took over a banana plantation and formed a production cooperative, community development was as central a concern as higher production. Recreation for the workers was felt just as important as tractors for the fields. The results of this project, Las Guanchias, form the basis of Honduras' audio-visual presentation to Habitat. It will show increased banana production and agricultural diversification as well as creation of a community hall, sports facilities and other social services for the employees.
Exploding Population, Uneven Distribution, Crux of Settlement Crisis

From 1930 to 1975 the world population doubled to 4 billion. In another 25 years the globe will have to accommodate around 7 billion inhabitants. Of this number most people will live in developing countries, for the growth is greater there.

Moreover, the distribution of people is changing dramatically. In 1900, four-fifths of mankind lived in rural areas. By the year 2000 about one third will remain there. The rest will be crowded in the cities. And the number of city dwellers in developing countries will be double that of industrialized countries.

Values of Traditional Architecture Recognized In Iran

At first glance the traditional architecture of Iran, with its lacy domes, latticed windows, and graceful arches seem an expression of an artistic soul. But the decorative and tranquil buildings in Iran are also a practical response to the demands of a dry, hot, high altitude climate. And how the Iranians learned to adapt to and use their environment is the subject of one of the audio-visual presentations to Habitat.

Mohammed Sadrazadeh, audio-visual producer, explained how the subtly arched, latticed windows were designed to attract the sun in the winter and keep it out in the summer. The domes capture solar energy, he said, and provide a social order in the household, for the person who sits directly under the dome is given the most respect. Even the stained-glass windows have a purpose; they keep insects away.

The new appreciation of traditional architecture comes at a time when many Governments are considering ways to use local building materials and re-evaluating the wisdom of importing human settlement models.

At a time when electric power is at a premium, Iran has had a natural air-conditioning system for centuries. "A tower is built on the top of the house, and has only one opening, to the north," Mr. Sadrazadeh said. "It catches the smallest breeze which is funneled to the basement, where there is a small pool of water. From there the cool air is circulated throughout the house.

"As migration to the cities increases and people become closely packed together, skyscrapers and apartment buildings are necessary," Mr. Sadrazadeh admitted. "It is inevitable but I personally think it is unfortunate, for traditional architecture need not be relegated to the position of historical monuments. It can be very useful today."
Self-Help Instrumental in Improving Life in Indonesia

Indonesia has selected a variety of human settlement projects ranging from rural community development to a transmigration project in regional development. A third presentation deals with improvement of spontaneous settlement in Jakarta. Self help and peoples' participation are important features in them all. Brick-making and road-building are essential ingredients in improving any community life.

Hardworking Jamaican Youth Create Farming Communities

"Hard Work Is The Road To Success - Don't Miss It" read the simply written sign in the community centre of a fledgling group of young Jamaican farmers. This forthright call to toil instead of leisure is being made at Nyere Farm, a part of the Cornwall Youth Project, near Montego Bay in Jamaica. And the response is such that there is a long waiting list of 18-30 year-olds who would like to return to the soil in the Government sponsored agricultural project.

One of Jamaica's audio-visual presentations to Habitat, the Cornwall Youth Project represents an effort to combat rural-urban migration, particularly amongst the young, for whom the dream of city life seldom shapes up with its reality. Kingston has an unemployment rate of 30%, primarily in the 25 and under age group, a planning official said, and the overcrowding and frustrated expectations have taken their social toll. With 50% of Jamaica's population under 16, the Government has recognized the urgent need to develop attractive rural alternatives for its young now.

"The Cornwall Youth Project is important," explained Habitat coordinator, Ansel Mahabir, "because it's an attempt to create a total community in a rural settlement. It's not just an agricultural project or a low-cost housing project, but it encompasses all things which go into a productive life. The sense of community here is very strong and very important to its success."

The 18-month-old project has already produced 85 proud 'pioneers', both men and women. As the first pioneers moved from their temporary tents into their homes, a new group of 50 trainees have arrived.

Four similar projects are on the planning board, but a Government official counselled that despite the good response, a large-scale implementation of such projects would be limited by shortage of land.

Jordan Valley Settlement Scheme Shows Integrated Development

Jordan's versatile demonstration projects include new agriculture, industrial sites, camps for refugees as well as the Jordan Valley Authority's scheme for development. National producer Touma Hazou (left) is pictured discussing camera positions on a location site.
Planning With The People For The People

Policies - No nation can ignore the aching needs of its people and the pain, injustice and frustration which is bred in inadequate human settlements. In seeking to deal with the present and provide long-term solutions for the future, Governments are increasingly engaging themselves in formulating national human settlement development objectives and policies.

The outlook and the outreach may vary from centralized decision-making to local control. A country's areas may differ in terms of environment, resources, people's skills or social structure. The audio-visual programme will provide many examples of successful regional planning policies.

Planning - In the past national development planning has often been scattered and sectoral. Fields like agriculture, housing, industry, education or health have been considered and planned for in isolation. Since human settlements encompass all these areas, the need for comprehensive planning becomes apparent and integrated national development becomes an avenue of action.

Participation - Neither national policies nor comprehensive planning can be successful unless the people, for whom these policies and plans are designed, are consulted. There is a growing awareness that planning by directive is not as effective as planning and implementation with popular participation. How to create and increase communication between the people and those who plan for their future is a major concern of many Governments. That will also be dramatized by many audio-visual presentations.

Liberia Combines Government Incentives With Self-Help

Film producer John Forth-Frank and his assistant Melcor Sarresty have gone all out to capture every aspect of the West Point low-cost housing scheme in Monrovia. The picture shows the building of a new access road, but the film entitled 'From Mats to Mattresses' encompasses the whole process of creating a new community out of a slum area. The project combines Government incentives and self-help.

Mozambique Acts To Improve Human Settlements

Rural development and building of communal villages is close to the heart of the new Government. Upgrading of spontaneous settlements is also one of the many actions taken in Mozambique. The photographs reflect the Government's initiative for involvement of people in the development of human settlements.
City Master Plan Realized In Qatar

Everthing up-to-date in Doha, the thoroughly modern capital of Qatar. Desert desolation has been replaced by chandeliered modernity with a touch of grace and balance. The city fountains are so many new shops and offices and houses, as whole areas have been cleared and re-created, according to a master plan. And all the brand new houses, even for the poor, have water, electricity, sewerage and are near a school and hospital.

Qatar has chosen its housing policy as one of its audio-visual presentations to Habitat. Since its inauguration in 1972, 400 houses have been built each year, and continuing at that rate every family in Qatar will have "a healthy home" by 1982.

"We have two housing programmes, one for the towns like Doha and one for new communities or villages," Mr. Basri Ala Ud-Din, the Habitat co-ordinator, said. "When a house in Doha is demolished, to make way for a community improvement, the occupants move to a brand new house with far better facilities. They only have to pay 60% of the cost of the house, over 20 years, if they are poor.

The elderly, orphans and widows are given houses free, he added, the only stipulation being they cannot sell or mortgage the house.

"We are giving houses away free in the new villages," he said, "to encourage people to stay in the area and form larger groups so they can enjoy better services."

Ahmed Al-Toukhi, the audio-visual producer pictured on location, explained that some of the village houses looked very much like tents - so they would be acceptable to the people. He acknowledged the need, and in the beginning the difficulty, of convincing people that going modern was a good thing.

"Qatar is fortunate to have the land and money to be able to build modern cities and houses for its citizens," he said. "But the film will show that this was achieved only through good organization and management."

Nicaragua Learns From Awesome Earthquake

The once bustling centre of Managua is a wasteland today, engulfed by weeds and dotted by ruins - a horrifying reminder of the earthquake which destroyed the city and took 10,000 lives one cold December night in 1973. And the story of how Nicaragua coped with disaster, the lessons learned and the reconstruction of a new, safer city from the rubble is the subject of its audio-visual presentation to Habitat.

A similar earthquake flattened the city in 1931 and a geological study revealed Managua's precarious perch on a jagged line of faults. But the decision to rebuild on the same site was made, said audio-visual producer, Nicolas Lopez Maltez, because Managua is the traditional capital city, it has the labour force, industry and infrastructure necessary for a community, and it was felt that with the new planning knowledge, a safer city could be built.

The plan for new Managua emphasizes deconcentration, so that the diminished population is spread across a wide region, and decentralization, to direct the flow of migration outside the capital city and develop surrounding areas. The new residential and commercial areas are limited to two stories, with a steel frame, and scattered over a wide area. Although the expensive construction is not available to the poor, emergency housing units which were built after the earthquake have given them electricity and water for the first time in their lives.

Within hours after the earthquake, people returned to the city to reconstruct their lives from the ruins. Although the Government has trained a civil body in emergency techniques to cope should another disaster strike, the people of Managua appear not to be frightened.

"We have learned to live with the enemy," said Mr. Lopez Maltez, pictured in front of a new shopping centre. "And we think, with the new measures that have been taken, another generation will not blame us for a similar tragedy."

Nepal Cares For Its Heritage

Preservation of historic monuments is an integral part of Nepal's overall settlement policy in Kathmandu valley. Rich in ancient art, Nepal has chosen conservation of its heritage as the subject for one of its presentations. The second presentation will show selection of growth centres and decentralization of decision-making.

The audio-visual producer Madhab Bhakle Mathema, an urban planner himself, is pictured in the historic centre of Kathmandu.
People Build Hospital In Sierra Leone

People can work together with their Governments to improve their way of life; that's the message behind Sierra Leone's film, according to Philip Rhodes, its producer. The film shows community self-help in construction of a modern hospital in Port Loko.

Mr. Rhodes coaches his crew, cameraman Festus Makauley and assistant Victor Gibson on location.

Nomads Settle In Somalia

A permanent home for a nomad is a contradiction in terms but it's a reality in Brava, a small fishing village in Somalia. There 10,000 drought-stricken nomads turned their backs on their desert heritage to face the sea and begin a completely new life as fishermen.

As 75% of Somalia's population is nomadic, this experience in resettlement has attracted considerable attention and will be part of one of the Government’s audio-visual presentations to Habitat. The other half of the presentation will deal with rehabilitation of homeless children.

Convincing nomads to settle on the seashore was no easy matter, one official explained. "Nomads are extremely proud and they have traditionally looked down upon fishing and farming," he said. "And too, any change involves a risk."

Some 15,000 nomads have become fishermen and 100,000 have turned to agriculture. The official stressed that while resettlement of 200,000 drought-stricken nomads was a major goal, the Government was not trying to eradicate Somalia's nomadic heritage.

Turning to the second part of the film, Abdullahi Omar, the national producer, pictured here pondering his script, described how prior to 1970 thousands of young people "were thrown into our society like garbage. They struggled for survival by day and night, got involved in petty theft and prostitution." Prison or alcoholism was their future until the Government established a rehabilitation centre in Lafole, where the children receive adequate medical care, a decent diet and a crash education up to the intermediate level.

Mr. Omar said that the two projects represented Somalia's two most pressing human settlement problems. Rather than evaluating them in his film, he preferred to let his audience and history be the judge, he said.
Self-Help Leads To Self-Reliance In Tanzania

In a way the Ujamaa (socialist) villages of agricultural Tanzania are not new at all. Farmers have traditionally helped each other in building houses or harvesting crops. The Ujamaa village draws upon this natural cooperation and expands it into a collective development programme. How Tanzania approached the problem of modernizing traditional villages, using minimum resources, and its goal of increased agricultural production, is the subject of one of its audio-visual presentations to Habitat.

"The Government’s emphasis on Ujamaa villages is an attempt to redress the exploitation of rural areas by more developed urban areas,” Dr. Sheri Taki of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development Planning explained. “All development depends on increased production, and Tanzania, as an agricultural country, has to put more into rural development.”

When the Ujamaa villages were initiated, in 1967, 95% of the people in Tanzania lived in scattered rural homesteads without basic services. Today 65% of the total rural population live in almost 7,000 Ujamaa villages, which have roads, water, a school, clinic, etc. Production has increased, as the Government has given subsidies for fertilizer. Although it is impossible to provide a tractor for each village, those which have one are becoming self-reliant. There are plans for small agro-related industries.

"We don’t pretend it was all accomplished overnight,” Dr. Taki said. “Most of the people saw the logic of moving into a Ujamaa village but some had to be persuaded to move. There were occasions, too, when the people who were assigned the task of moving the farmers did so at the wrong time, disturbing production. These difficulties have been worked out.

“I think,” he said reflecting, “that one of the most important lessons of Ujamaa villages is that self-help is necessary and it works. People are getting out of the habit of waiting for the Government to do something which they are able to do themselves.”

Cyril Kaunga, (far right) from the new audio-visual institute in Dar es Salaam is considering a camera position in the field, accompanied by his crew.

Thailand Nurtures Future Forests

It takes almost a year merely to produce the stump that will eventually be planted and it takes 60 years before a teak plantation can be harvested. Reforestation is laborious but vital for long term development of human settlements. The audio-visual presentation from Thailand is introducing the forest villages. Each village is bound to replant 160 hectare per year. That amounts to 1.6 hectare for each of the 100 families the villages comprise.

Teak lumbering and planting goes hand in hand, in these hillside forest villages in northern Thailand, said the Habitat Coordinator Dr. Prom Panichpakdi. The producer, Thanom Soongnatrat is already editing his film.
Democratic Yemen Builds Schools For Nomad Children

Next to water, an opportunity to educate their children seems to be a reason why nomads decide to settle down. That is what is happening in Democratic Yemen, where providing schools for children of nomads has enticed their Bedouin parents to remain in a community, at least for parts of the year.

Ahmed Agrabi, who will produce the Democratic Yemen film, photographed this Bedouin settlement, while doing research for the filming.

ECA . . . rediscovering traditional techniques

African countries are rediscovering traditional techniques and local building materials as means of providing economic housing, according to Rudolf Jahrling, Housing Advisor to the Economic Commission for Africa.

The import of this new trend, drawing on the experience of generations of African builders, seen through the environment, handicraft and traditional art, will be discussed in the ECA's slide presentation to Habitat.

"No African nations have moved away from Western oriented housing in cities," Mr. Jahrling said. "Only in the last three years have designs for single experiments of peri-urban and resettlement projects used local building materials and traditional techniques. But as the price of imported materials has increased at the rate of between 40 and 100 per-cent per year in some countries, Governments have turned their thoughts toward the often neglected traditional techniques and local building materials."

The ECA's presentations will show 12 housing solutions in six countries of North and West Africa where planning has moved toward utilizing traditional methods together with modern infrastructure and environmental conditions.

"Governments are only beginning to look into the problem of low-cost housing," Mr. Jahrling said, "because traditionally every man, together with his family and friends, built his own house. Housing cooperatives, site-and-service schemes, self-help organizations and national housing authorities are some of the ways in which African Governments are attempting to meet the demand."

While emphasizing that no one solution for housing can be found in all of Africa, Mr. Jahrling recommended that all Governments improve the quality of planning and building by reconciling the respective cultural and ethnic traditions with modern technical and economic possibilities.

Irrigation and Health Care Featured By Uganda

National producer Barnabas Manukwankowira employs a steady hand and a keen eye to capture his country's two audio-visual presentations.

An irrigation scheme for the tea planters in the hilly Mubale Kigezi terrain and a rural health centre are the subjects.

Two Traditional Techniques Explored In Yemen Arab Republic

The picturesque and yet highly utilitarian traditional way of building is one of Yemen Arab Republic's audio-visual presentations to Habitat.

The second film discusses the traditional terracing techniques in agriculture which have demonstrated their effectiveness through the centuries.

The idea of Habitat is not simply to develop new technologies and methods for solving human settlement problems but to evaluate existing systems. This has often led to new appreciation of traditional ways.
Zambia Attacks Housing Shortage

Not so long ago Governments treated squatter settlements with a bulldozer, levelling them out of existence. This had to be done repeatedly for squatter settlements are resilient. Tired, some Governments began to look for a different solution - and upon looking closely discovered that squatter settlements were really not so horrid after all.

In Lusaka, 45% of the people live in 'unauthorized settlements' and some civil servants are among them. The housing shortage is so acute that they have no choice. And the Government has wisely decided to work with this human resource instead of against it.

The up-grading of a spontaneous settlement in Lusaka is part of Zambia's audio-visual presentation to Habitat. The film will also include a site and service scheme and efforts to improve life in a fishing village so that its people won't flood into the towns and create new squatter settlements.

"The work was carried out by several Government departments," a housing official explained, "and the people in the squatter compound were informed at each stage by a community development person. They followed the engineer around when he paced out the road and he listened to their suggestions. A field team assisted the people in building and improving upon their houses, and the water outlets, which were provided for every 25 houses, quickly became a meeting place."

"I think the experience in Lusaka is significant," said Randy Abbotts, the scriptwriter, "because it shows Government recognition of the human and financial assets of the squatter settlement. One shouldn't destroy what one man has created, if it can be preserved and improved upon."

Film Round-Up

Who's Doing What, Where To Improve Human Settlements

It is not possible, in a mere 16 pages, to depict the full scope of Habitat's audio-visual programme. Because of the limitations of time, space and financial resources selections had to be made. Emphasis was placed on contributions of developing countries, and individual countries were chosen on the basis of information available.

The composition of the audio-visual programme is of course more varied than that.

Here is a sampling of other film and slide presentations which will make Habitat a global learning experience:

- Human settlement development and management in Sweden
- New traffic systems in Japan
- Volunteer construction "microbrigades" in Cuba
- Planning and development of remote communities in Australia
- Reconstruction and development of Warsaw in Poland
- Citizen involvement in public decision making in USA
- Development of a new town in Central Asia in USSR
- Housing for special groups in the Netherlands...

Countdown for Delivery

December 31 seemed very distant in July, but it's ominously near now. Each presentation must be delivered to the Secretariat with the following material:

16mm Motion Picture Film
1. Continuity script containing both image and sound column with the full text of the film narration.
2. A minimum of four positive prints with optical sound, which are needed for reference, transfer to video tape cassettes and public showings. Additional prints would be helpful for television and other purposes. Countries which send such prints are at an advantage in the publicity work.
3. International sound track with music, sound effects and lip-synchronous sound used in the film.
4. Commentary sound track, identical to the track on the film, but which can secure a better final sound reproduction on the video tape cassette.

35mm Slide Show
1. Continuity script containing both image and sound column with the full text of the narration.
2. Four sets of numbered colour transparencies.
3. International sound track with music and sound effects recorded on full track at 7.5 inches per second on 1/4 inch magnetic tape, with sync pulse if possible.
4. Commentary track in one of the official United Nations languages.
5. Cue sheet which shows commencement and duration of narration, music, effects, timing of slides and other necessary information.

It is best if slides are delivered in Kodak carousel trays, inserted in correct sequence.

And Don't Forget The Capsule!
Task Force Doubled to 16

Since the team of multi-talented, international film experts was assembled this summer, its number has doubled. Introductions to the 8 United Nations members of the task force have already been made. Now we'd like you to meet the 8 new faces drawn from the National Film Board of Canada, and provided by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Jacques Bensimon - Field producer and Editor at the Nairobi Unit, he travelled through French and English speaking Africa to assist Governments in their productions before taking up his duties in Nairobi. Born in Morocco, his fluency in Arabic and his wide film-making experience have equipped him well for the task.

Gilles Blais - A film director since 1971, he has made several films on education and Eskimos as well as one on agriculture in Tunisia. As an in-the-field producer he has assisted Burundi, Chad, Rwanda and Zaire.

Lionel Lumb - Born in Pakistan and educated in Calcutta, he worked as a journalist for BBC and CBC before turning to films and television. His previous experience in filming in Bangladesh and India has served him well in his assignment to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

Derek May - His first film 'Angel' won five international awards, and his work as writer and director has continued to attract acclaim. As an in-the-field producer his responsibility includes Iran, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Dario Pulgar - Has produced and directed documentary and feature films in Latin America, after earning a Masters in Communications from Stanford University on a Fulbright scholarship. His Latin American background has served him well in his assignment to Central America.

Roger Rochat - An award-winning filmmaker, he has been with the NFP for 10 years. His work took him to Tunisia for three years as an audio-visual consultant on a CIDA agricultural project and his Habitat assignment includes many French-speaking African countries.

Michael Rubbo - Won Robert Flaherty award and many others for 'Sad Song of Yellow Skin,' he holds degrees in anthropology and communications. His considerable experience filming in Asia is reflecting in his travels to Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

William Weintraub - Producer head of the Nairobi Unit, he was a journalist before turning scriptwriter and becoming a director/producer. His first film as a director won the 1970 Canadian Film Awards as well as Blue Ribbon film award from American Film Festival.

Nairobi Unit Hub Of Activity

National film producers from Africa and parts of Asia are converging on Nairobi to put the finishing touches on their audio-visual presentations.

Habitat established a special post-production unit in Nairobi in September and since then the editing, sound transferring, mixing and recording facilities have scarcely had a chance to cool down.

Zaire's national producer, Matondo Kamanka, was the first one to polish off his film, 'A Roof for Everybody' about Zaire's efforts to resolve its housing problems. An early bird, he worked in quiet splendour, but now, as the December 31 deadline fast approaches, the unit is bursting with activity.

William Weintraub heads the international support team, who worked in the field before assuming their posts in Nairobi to help finalize productions. He is assisted by Bo-Erik Gyberg and Jacques Bensimon.

The Unit, which is part of Habitat's assistance programme to developing countries, avoids the usual delays when post productions have to be made in Europe.

Fully bilingual, even to the extent of having a Moroccan born Canadian who speaks Arabic, the unit has become a centre in which French and English speaking filmmakers interact. It also fosters communication between filmmakers from small, least cinematically developed countries and those from highly skilled and experienced countries. It is hoped that from this valuable professional and personal contact a pattern of African regional production will be strengthened.

Habitat's audio-visual programme has become a global film production support unit. The complexity of the operation is illustrated by the 116 countries' involvement with over 200 productions, the 16 men strong team of traveling consultants/producers and the bustling post-production sub-unit in Nairobi. To stretch the UNEP money for financial assistance the home team has also developed into a centre for requisition of rawstock film, processing of exposed footage and printing of release prints. New York is the least expensive place to do it. Hundreds of requests will have been serviced before Vancouver is on.

Chief of the Programme, Andreas Fuglesang and his special assistant, Phyllis MacPherson, are devoting time to management and logistics.