

# A voice for individuals

**OUT OF SILENCE: Fighting for Human Rights** produced by Chuck Olin Associates Inc, 1992. Running time: 52 minutes.

ON December 10, 1948, forty-eight countries voted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document which had taken two years of discussion and debate to complete.

This video documents the drafting of the declaration and its subsequent use by various human rights organisations to highlight the plight of individuals facing repression in countries that do not abide by its regulations.

The successful November 1989 uprising in Czechoslovakia and the current repression in Guatemala are given as case studies for how

the declaration has been used by non-governmental organisations to give individuals an active voice.

The purpose of the video, according to the producers, is firstly educational and the accompanying booklet provides several points for discussion. Secondly it wants to create a sense of solidarity with others involved in the fight for human rights.

What the video does do is inform and educate the viewer about the valuable work and achievements of human rights organisations throughout the world and the significant role the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has played in facilitating this work.

● *The video is available for loan or for copying from Idasa's media department, 1 Penzance Road, Mowbray 7700 (Tel 021-*

# What is desirable and viable

**BROADCASTING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA**, Critical Arts Volume 6 Number 1, 1992.

EVERYBODY'S talking about it, some might influence it, a few will do it, others will simply hear about it...but in some way changes to the SABC will affect us all.

Amid the clamour for the re-regulation of the airwaves, this issue of the journal "Critical Arts" offers one of the more comprehensive assessments of what is desirable and what is viable in the creation of an effective public broadcast service.

In particular, the article by Richard

Collins, 'Broadcasting policy for a post apartheid South Africa: some preliminary proposals', is one of the more comprehensive critiques of the Viljoen Task Group and an insightful contribution to the debate on broadcasting in South Africa.

Other contributions focus on the development of telecommunications in South Africa, language and national unity in South Africa, the Zimbabwe post-colonial broadcasting experience and lessons from the Australian communications industry.

● *The journal is available in bookshops and from the Centre for Cultural and Media Studies, University of Natal, Durban.*

# Invite authors to bosberaad

From Page 26

sion', pointing out that Salman Rushdie's (superb) Satanic Verses could be legitimately suppressed under such a provision and that a documentary film on Nelson Mandela was one of the first works to be embargoed under a similar provision in Canada.

The commentary to the charter touches fascinatingly on the controversies surrounding issues such as privacy (suggesting as useful J S Mill's definition of the private sphere as that in which one's conduct does not harm others, so that, for instance, a drunk person should not be punished while a soldier or police officer drunk on duty should); environmental rights (opting, sadly,

for an anthropocentric rather than a biocentric approach on the basis that rights for natural 'objects' are not appropriate in a bill of rights); socio-economic rights (addressed in the directives of state policy); and property (suggesting a possible property clause but arguing against its inclusion).

The charter itself, with its attached directives of state policy, has a simplicity and elegance that is compelling, although its preamble, which begins with the lyrical first phrases of the Freedom Charter, quickly declines into "a dying fall". It certainly deserves to be widely read and to be taken seriously. Could the authors be invited to a constitutional bosberaad or two, do you suppose?

Shauna Westcott is a freelance journalist and editor.

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## WOMEN IN A NEW SA

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A package of six workshops for women who want to turn all the talk about women's rights into action. Designed by activists and tried and tested, it comes with posters and other illustrations.

## DEMOCRACY

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