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9th August 2006



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Mr Shumsher K. Sheriff
 Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar,
 Administration, Secretariat, Port Blair

enc. BBC Programme "Synopsis"
 enc. Minutes from Delhi meeting

Dear Mr Shariff,

Towards the end of last year it was my pleasure to meet with DS Negi, the then Chief Secretary of the A&N islands, and subsequently to have a meeting with the Planning Commission in Delhi, chaired by Adarsh Misra. In both these meetings, one in Port Blair and one in New Delhi, I was able to make a formal presentation of a documentary idea I'm working on for the BBC in the UK, a film that would hope to explore Jarawa culture. As the new incoming CS I felt it vital to write you this letter in the hope that we pick up the issue up from where I had left it in my previous meetings.

Whilst in the Andamans DS Negi and the tribal affairs representative heard the background to my project and had no initial objection to what was planned. I explained that the documentary would be a sensitive anthropological film focusing on the daily lives of the Jarawa people based on extensive planning and research (see attached synopsis). After a lengthy discussion describing the project and what we hoped to achieve DS Negi advised me to get the final approval from Delhi and so I travelled to meet with key figures in Delhi and make an audiovisual presentation there. The minutes enclosed with this letter outline the results of this meeting that concluded with the advice to come back to the A&N with a final, formal, written proposal for the CS. I felt both my meetings to be very successful as in both cases no major objections were aired.

who was on representative?

With so many sensationalist stories surrounding the Jarawa people it was important to make detailed audiovisual presentations illustrating how the focus of our film was not journalism but an insightful view of the daily lives of the Jarawa. The presentations were successful in showing both what we have done before with similar programmes and also in underlining that, when it came to a potential film on the subject, the BBC would apply all its experience and expertise in making sensitive, accurate, compelling documentaries.

I would be more than happy to visit Delhi, or perhaps even the Andamans, to discuss this issue further if you so wish. Furthermore, if you would like more material that demonstrates our experience in this field (further to the DVD I have sent to your postal address) then please don't hesitate to let me know and I will send it out to you immediately.

We here in the BBC are very excited by this project's potential and genuinely feel that it could be beneficial to all parties involved. I really appreciate you taking the time out to read this letter and the attached information and look forward to being in contact again very soon to move things forward.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Dyas
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we can discuss in weekly meeting b1

See 14/8/06

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