

1.

LIVINGSTONE
ENGRAVINGS
(DRUMS)

NARR: In 1840, a few white missionaries trekked into the dry interior of the subcontinent of southern Africa. They went further than any other European had ever gone into this bleak landscape.

One of them was David Livingstone.

In the land of the Bechuanas, Livingstone found little water -- only the Kalahari Desert. But he made many journeys and across the Kalahari he came upon Lake Ngemi.

The spoken history of the Bechuanas relates that ~~When~~ Livingstone came, their country was in one of the longest droughts ever known. Rain was then, and is now, the greatest blessing you may offer a Bechuana, and because Livingstone's prayers seemed to do little to help them, they were doubtful at first of the power of his preaching.

DROUGHT SHOTS
(DRUMS)
SUPERTITLE:
INTERNATIONAL ZONE
LET THEM COME WITH
RAIN

LONG DESOLATE
PAN

It is 120 years later. The land is still dry, still victim to drought.

SOUND OF WIND

But now it is the independent nation of Botswana, and its President, Sir Seretse Khama, speaks at the United Nations.

SIR SERETSE
KHAMA ON
ROSTRUM

SUPERTITLE

PRESIDENT
SIR SERETSE
KHAMA

VILLAGERS
(KHAMA VO)

BOTSWANA VILLAGE
LIFE

HERDS OF CATTLE

VILLAGERS AT WELL

COOKING POTS

SPAN OF MULES

DROUGHT
SEQUENCE

DEAD CATTLE

DEAD CATTLE
IN WATERHOLE

VULTURES

TRAVELLING SHOT
SWAMP

KHAMA (SYNC): When my government took office in 1965, we were faced with a problem of underdevelopment, of classic proportions. Such development programs as were initiated under colonialism no more than scratched the surface of our problems. But most important of all, in contrast to other British colonies, there had been practically no attempt to train Botswanans to run their own country.

NARR: In the seventy years of British rule, says the President, not one secondary school was completed. There was almost no vocational training, few roads, very little searching for water. When it took power, the Government of independent Botswana found itself short even of facts -- the facts on which to base a program of development.

The truth seems to be that Botswana is getting drier; there are poor rains in eight years out of ten. During the terrible drought of the sixties one out of every three cattle died.

In the north near Lake Ngami, a network of rivers forms a great inland delta known as the Okavango Swamp. Six thousand square miles of water surface -- enough water to irrigate half of Botswana and a region infested with tsetse fly.

There have been many plans for getting water across the desert and putting it to use. Now FAO -- the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization -- is involved.

MICHAEL REED
ON CAMERA
SUPERTITLE:
MICHAEL REED
FAO

TRAVELLING
SHOT OF SWAMP
(REED VO)

REED (SYNC): I've just been up on a trip and we've been putting in gauges to measure the flow at strategic points. There are about five main streams going through it. When we have our instruments, we'll be measuring it.

REED ON CAMERA

TRAVELLING SHOT
(REED VO)

REED (SYNC): Then it goes through a maze of little channels and you have to hack your way through with hungas, pull the boat through. It takes a day to get about a couple of hundred yards. Once you're through the river's good again. There's tsetse fly, mosquitoes and leechesbut it's all right on the whole.

REED ON CAMERA (SYNC)

MONTAGE OF
WILD ANIMALS
ON RESERVE

GIRAFFE
ELEPHANT
ZEBRA
ETC.
(DRUMS)

Providence gave the Bechuanas precious little but there is one magnet to draw visitors from all over the world: a richness and diversity of wild life, a series of unrivalled African landscapes alive with game. There are national parks, where you may come to see and to photograph; there are hunting areas too, some of the best in Africa.

AMERICAN
SPORTSMAN
ON CAMERA

SPORTSMAN (SYNC): Oh, we love the camp life. This is great camp life -- camp life with people serving you in white coats, you know, and bringing you coffee in the morning in bed before you get up and a valet running around taking care of you, all those things are real nice.

SECOND SPORTSMAN
ON CAMERA

2ND SPORTSMAN (SYNC): We were going after a lion, kudu, buffalo, lechawe, impala, warthog, tsessebe and hopefully -- we'll get a big lion -- a black mane lion.

INTERVIEWER (OFF CAMERA): Why black mane?

1ST SPORTSMAN (SYNC): Well, my son wants a black mane lion....that's just the --

2ND SPORTSMAN (SYNC): Well, the black mane is the most beautiful of all the lions and it's considered the top.

1st SPORTSMAN (SYNC):....and I guess when he has the black mane, that shows he's poppa of the outfit -- the black mane signifies -- I assume, don't it, Oliver? -- that he really is the king, you know.

VILLAGE OF
KANYE

CHIEF BATHOEN
AND PETITIONERS

VILLAGERS GATHER

ZOOM INTO MS
CHIEF SITTING
AGAINST WALL OF HUT

This is how it has always been in the village of Kanye. Every morning Chief Bathoen sits listening to petitions. In tribal cases this is the final court of appeal: the chief joins couples together in traditional marriage, puts them apart in divorce.

(SYNC SOUND)

CU FACES OF
VILLAGERS

The scribe keeps his record.....

CU WOMAN PETITIONER

She is accused of adultery. While her husband was away in the mines of Johannesburg, she gave birth to a child. She says he is cruel and beats her. Both sides are heard. Then the Chief says "Try again. Keep the marriage going."

VILLAGE LIFE

VILLAGE FAMILY

There is no personal ownership of land: it all belongs to the tribe and the Chief holds it in trust. He distributes it and takes it away. But in other matters, the absolute power of the Chiefs has gone; tribal councils now rule on some questions and a democratically elected central government bites deeply into the ancient sovereignty of the Chiefs.

CU NATIVE
WOMANWOMAN HOLDS CHILD
WOMAN WORKS OVER
COOKING POTS

There is a feast in the village today and a wedding feast at that.

WEDDING SEQUENCE
WOMEN APPROACH CAMP
YODELLING

The bridegroom's parents are coming with cattle; the ritual gift which sets the bond between the two families. The men sit down to bargain but it is ceremonial.

MEN IN WEDDING GROUP

Everything has already been arranged and the number of cattle agreed. It must always be an even number:

OLD VILLAGER

'Each animal with his mate'.

WOMAN APPROACH
YODELLING

LS WEDDING PARTY

GROUP OF MEN

CU BRIDEGROOM

Late in the afternoon the women of the bridal family go over to the groom's household.....while at home, the husband-to-be is being instructed by his male relatives. The bridegroom's father tells him: "Today we are giving you a wife. Today

you are a man".

UNCLE

Then his uncle speaks: "As a man, you must obey our laws. We give you a wife, but never forget she is not yours -- she is ours. She belongs to your father, your parents."

FACES OF OLD
VILLAGERS

WOMEN ARRIVE

And now, for the first time, the women all come together in this ceremony that binds their

CATTLE PULL CART WITH
WEDDING PARTY
MAN DANCES

families. At sunset, the bride herself arrives, escorted by her closest relatives.

HERMANS ON
CAMERA

HERMANS (VO): How does one develop a country about the same size as France, 600,000 people -- two thirds of whom are illiterate How does one raise their per capita income on a sustained basis? We're prone to drought -- this is a very, very poor country. one of the poorest in Africa. We looked at this problem. We have tried to build up an inventory of our natural resources and we know that in the long term, the prospects of Botswana, of beef production, are very good. The resources are there, the grazing is there.....the water is difficult but ultimately we are confident we will overcome that problem too.

HERMANS ON
CAMERA (SYNC)
SUPERTITLE:
QUILL HERMANS
ECONOMIST --
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING
(HERMANS VO)
HERDING CATTLE

TRAVELLING SHOT
CATTLE HERD

NARR: Quill Hermans was born in South Africa, educated in England and America -- but he is a citizen of Botswana -- one of the few who are white.

CATTLE MOVING
ACROSS
BOTSWANA
LANDSCAPE

HERMANS (VO): It's clear that there's no direct way to put resources into the agricultural sector and get an immediate outturn. The reason for this is the nature of the people and the nature of their institutions are such that one has to break through the resistance within the social structure -- to changes in agriculture. We have to reduce the resistance in the people to change.....technical changes, social changes.

CATTLE DRIVE

NARR: The "prime mover" of Botswana is its cattle. Cattle are wealth, cattle are status, cattle buy brides. Cattle make happiness. And cattle make the country's overwhelmingly most important export. Men drive cattle four hundred miles or more over barren land to the slaughter house.

CATTLE IN CHUTES

SLAUGHTER HOUSE
INTERIOR

CARCASES BEING
HOSED

CARCASES ON BENCHES
PASSING ALONG
OVERHEAD
CONVEYOR

This one processing plant earns 90 per cent of Botswana's export money. No part of the carcass is wasted.

SILHOUETTE OF
CARCASSES MOVING
DOWN OVERHEAD
CONVEYOR
VICE PRESIDENT QUETT
MASIRE ON CAMERA
SUPERTITLE:
VICE PRESIDENT
DR. QUETT MASIRE

MASIRE (VO): We process from about 100,000 each year. The most we have ever killed is 152,000 but now because after the large drought everybody is trying to build up his herd, people are reluctant to sell.

MASIRE (SYNC): Last year, we killed something like 95,000. It can be increased, one -- if people, if the cattle population increases, then, two -- if people's attitude towards cattle changes, and they cease to look upon cattle as a social status, as a mark of social status.

WATER DEVELOPMENT
CATTLE AT TROUGH

To raise cattle you need water. But water doesn't come free -- it is expensive and the people of Botswana realize that no longer can they put their trust in nature.

DAM

OFFICIAL (VO): Our problem is, well, to maintain the borehole. Possibly, most members expect the borehole to function and they possibly pamper to it without them paying any fees. They are always late in payment of fees. You'll find that some people are almost two years in arrears -- one often wonders how did they expect their cattle to go to water.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL
ON CAMERA

OFFICIAL (SYNC): It's just that in the past people didn't have to pay for water. They had it when they could get it and they didn't have it when they couldn't get it and that was about all. Now they can't understand why they should be called upon to pay for water.

PUMP
TAP
DAM CONSTRUCTION

The people of Ramoutsa Village walk nine miles every day to work on this dam. They take their wages in food, given by the Freedom from Hunger campaign.

WOMEN AT DAM WITH
CARRYING POTS ON HEADS
CHILDREN

A small dam, to catch the precious rain. Big machines could have built it in a month. The villagers have been at work a year and they aren't finished yet. But it will be their dam -- they will have built it.

PAN OF WATER

Botswana's wealth lies thinly on the landscape. But underground, there is promise of riches.

MINING SEQUENCE
(SYNC SOUND)

DRILLING
MINERS' FACES
EARTH BEING
DUMPED

RIG
RIG IN OPERATION

NARR: After years of exploring, mining companies in 1967 found diamonds, copper and nickel.

When a poor country like Botswana finds a treasure like this, it lacks the means to get it out: it needs power, roads, tools, water -- the complex of technology that goes into mining.

And so President Seretse Khama goes to Washington DC and pays a visit to the World Bank.

SIR
SERETSE KHAMA
IN WASHINGTON DC

ARRIVAL WASHINGTON
PASSES THROUGH DOORS
OF WORLD BANK

WORLD BANK OFFICIALS
WELCOME PRESIDENT
SIR SERETSE KHAMA

CU SIGN
"MR. MCNAMARA"

SIR SERETSE KHAMA
TALKING WITH
MR. MCNAMARA

WOMEN WORKING
AMONG CROPS IN
FIELDS

TAMPING DOWN EARTH
CROPS IN FIELD
WOMEN HARVESTING
LS WOMEN
HARVESTING IN
FIELD

KHAMA (VO): My government is in the midst of negotiating international loan finance for these developments. It is a matter of the greatest concern for us that the money is raised from the right source on the right terms. We did not win our independence from the British to lose it to a new form of colonialism from any source whatsoever.

It will be a long time before Botswana's women win their independence from the bonds of the harvest. They bring in the crops, by methods that have not changed since Livingstone walked here. Women also clear the land, build the mud-walled houses, prepare and cook the food. If the rains are good, people eat; if they fail, people go hungry.

CROPS IN FIELD

HERMANS (VO): To be an economist or a farmer in a developing country such as Botswana is a frustrating experience because none of the textbook solutions which one learns in one's profession work in a country like Botswana. This is not -- these are not problems that are susceptible to input/output analysis, to cost benefit studies. One has to be a sociologist, or an anthropologist and an economist before one can grapple with them. And the slowness of the change, the slowness of the -- of inducing increased ability to change, is frustrating.

HERMANS ON CAMERA
(SYNC)

YOUNG FARMER
AGAINST FIELDS

FARMER (SYNC): When I came here from school and started what I do now, people were very skeptical about it -- to start with, they really ridiculed me and said 'Well, this is just a boy from school -- he doesn't know we have plowed for ages' and they thought putting cow manure into the land was maybe attracting weeds and when I planted thick and thin my crops, they thought it was because of being a schoolboy, I am impatient. They were a little startled. They didn't seem to be sure just what was happening.

(FARMER VO)
OXEN PLOUGHING
FIELD

LS FIELDS

What is consoling is that people began to realize that, well, it really is hard work and looking after the crops that needs to be done on the land, not getting the witchdoctor to come and perform with his charms on the land.

LS FIELDS
INSPECTION OF FARM
MACHINERY

FARMER (VO): It's funny, because what you see now is what people have seen in the Transvaal, in the Republic of South Africa but they thought it was white men using white man's skill, they didn't think it could be done. But when it's their own fellow man doing it, they start, as I say, ridiculing it and then gradually come around to see if he can do it.

CU FACES

INSPECTING FARM
MACHINERY

When he is a foreigner approaching a farmer, the farmer is always regarding him with suspicion. But later in following him, he asks him some intimate questions -- why do this and why not do that -- which perhaps if he asked a foreigner he would think they would be taken to be childish questions, and therefore refrain from asking questions, which he would gather the answers would be of

TEACHER
SCHOOLROOM

use to the farmer.

TEACHER (SYNC): What is a proper noun? A proper noun is the name of a particular person. I am walking -- what am I doing?

CLASS

(SYNC): You are walking.....

TEACHER (SYNC): What are the pronouns here? You have two pronouns -- give me two pronouns.....

MOSHENANG
PRIMARY SCHOOL
LUNCH BREAK

Lunch break at M_oshenang Primary School -- the educational system runs on a shoe-string.

CHILDREN OUTSIDE
IN SCHOOL YARD

Everything is in short supply. Some classes

COOKING POTS
FOOD BEING SERVED

number ninety children. Half the teachers are untrained.

TEACHER
TRAINING COLLEGE

LECTURER (VO): Now let's go on. Now we are trying to see how a teacher can organize a school. You are to make a little part... to make the school attractive. You take them out in the bush then they will see these things with their eyes. Don't always say - 'a leaf is....something'. But make them believe it - they must see the leaf.

TEACHER
QUERIES LECTURER

TEACHER (SYNC): Sometimes you hear of people calling others 'unskilled labourers' -- I don't know what difference....

LECTURER (SYNC): She says what does it mean to say a person is an unskilled labourer - an unskilled worker is a person that has not learnt the job he or she is doing. You know, that is what is meant. A person who has never been taught his or her work.. unqualified....

PATRICK VAN
RENSBURG ON
CAMERA

VAN RENSBURG (SYNC): Now the first thing I want to do this morning is to give out the junior certificates.....

SWANENG HILL
SCHOOL

NARR: Patrick van Rensburg came here in 1964 --
an exiled South African, and built a school

VAN RENSBURG CALLS
OUT NAMES OF STUDENTS

Swaneng Hill School is a bold experiment --

LS SWANENG HILL SCHOOL

cooperatively run, committed to the idea of

WOMAN TEACHER

independence and self-sufficiency. Van Rensburg
believes that development comes out of education.

VAN RENSBURG ON
CAMERA
SUPERTITLE:
PATRICK VAN RENSBURG
PRINCIPAL -- SWANENG HILL
SCHOOL

VAN RENSBURG (SYNC): Our role is
not simply to be turning out people with
certificates or prepared for only doing
an office job. In fact, we have to
provide people for a very diverse economy
and I've evolved all my ideas simply
from recognizing the problems of a
developing country and that these
are the problems of a developing country
rather than a developed country. And
that education has to be adapted. Here,
we've evolved the system of on the job
training in which, by the work they do,
the students or trainees actually earn
enough money for their education. And
we started this off in building which
required very little capital and the
buildings that they built for the community,
for the cooperative which was started
as well -- for the school, the district
council, even for one of the churches --
the work that was done here paid the
instructors so that this system provided
training in building for a three year
course for 20 people who passed government
trade tests last year without a penny
being charged to the state or anyone else,
for the training. So this means the
only capital required is actually to set
the thing up.

STUDENTS WORKING IN
CONSTRUCTION OF
BUILDING (VANRENSBURG
VO)

HAMMERING
SAWING
LS SCHOOL BUILDING

PASTEURIZATION PLANT

To pasteurize milk, the textbook says you need
a modern plant costing six or seven thousand
dollars. But the Danish dairy farmer who teaches
at Swaneng Hill found a cheaper way to get the
same result.

STUDENTS AND DANISH
EXPERT

FACES OF
STUDENTS WATCHING
EXPERIMENT

INSTRUCTOR (VO): To pasteurize -- that means you heat up the milk sufficient to kill all the germs. Some ordinary drum is just filled up with water and when it is close to 200 degrees you dip in -- put in your 10 gallons of milk. You know from earlier experiments that the germs are killed. And you then cool it down to about 38 degrees....that is Fahrenheit....the waters make it more -- it is not so hot.

DANISH INSTRUCTOR
ON CAMERA

INSTRUCTOR (SYNC): You know, in your three legged pot it will very often burn a little in the bottom and if you're going to sell that milk, it is not so nice.

WORK AT
SWANENG HILL

LOADING CROPS
ONTO DRAY

LOOM

WOMEN AT WORK

WEAVING SEQUENCE

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