

**inter-  
national  
zone**



**United Nations Television**

Prod 173

INTERNATIONAL ZONE.

A THIRST FOR CHANGE

(Color)

In Ghana, UN cameras found a challenging and colourful story - about water. In poor countries, the search for water - having enough of it - having it clean, having it nearby - is one of the vital processes in development. Impure water is the most wide-spread cause of ill-health. Carrying water is an enormous drudgery on the shoulders of the human race. This program shows what it means for a village to have its first supply of clean water: there are happy faces and some very quirky reactions when the people get their first bills for piped water.

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Produced for the United States Broadcasters Committee for the United Nations  
by United Nations Television.

69-46497

*United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017*

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CARGO CANOES  
SUPER TITLES  
INTERNATIONAL ZONE  
UNITED NATIONS

NARRATOR : For more than 2000 years ships that called at African ports were loaded and unloaded by cargo canoes. As recently as 1962, you could still see it at Accra, the capital of Ghana, because human muscles were the only available source of power.

PORT OF TEMA  
TODAY

Now there is more muscle and a big new port -- Tema -- near Accra. Here the past is over. There's new power, right out of the heart of Ghana. Akosombo Dam taps the power of the Volta River, power for Ghana's new industries.

PAN OF WATERSPILL  
VOLTA DAM  
SUPER LONG PAN OF  
OIL REFINERY

M. K. APALOO (VO) : On accession to independence, there had been frantic efforts to industrialize the country.

APALOO ON CAMERA

APALOO (SYNC) : As a result of the conclusion of the port of Tema and the buildup of Akosombo and the Indus complex in and around Tema, there has been a great influx into the Accra-Tema area of new people looking for jobs and so on.

TITLE :

M. K. APALOO,  
CHAIRMAN, GHANA  
WATER AND  
SEWERAGE CORP.

APALOO (VO) : Especially the newly educated, those who left school, flock into towns and seek employment. This, of course, created greater need for water.

BUSES ON ROAD  
CITY SHOTS

MAN WASHING CAR

"THIRST FOR CHANGE"

WORKERS' FLATS

PEOPLE WASHING  
CLOTHES,  
BATHING,  
ETC.

CROWD WAITING  
IN LINE AT  
STANDPIPE

MRS. OCANSAY  
ON CAMERA

SURVEYORS WALKING  
AWAY THROUGH  
NIMA

NARRATOR : Water. Today the Accra-Tema area has over a half million people. They all need water. Some can afford water piped directly to their homes but most have had to get water from public standpipes. For them, the standpipe area has been laundry and washroom as well as source of drinking water.

The British left a water system built for a quieter time. It has quietly given up under the pressures of new demands. It sprang countless leaks and threatened to become contaminated. So the water supply has been severely limited and hours of water service have been restricted. People have to wait on line, or else pay someone else to wait for them.

SYNC SOUND SEQUENCE : Under the treaty, all the land belongs to me.

SURVEYOR : That's good. We are from the Water and Sewerage Corporation. We are carrying out a survey. We want to find out which houses have their own pipes. Do you have a pipe here?

MRS. OCANSAY : Got any pipe? I would be pleased if I could have one.

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SURVEYOR : Okay. Before we do that I would like to get certain particulars ... what is your name, please?

MRS. OCANSAY : I am Grace K. Ocansay

SURVEYOR : Where do you get water? Do you buy it or do you ...

MRS. OCANSAY : I always buy it. Even this morning I bought a shilling.

SURVEYOR : I see. How much is a tin of water? A kerosene tin?

MRS. OCANSAY : A tin of water is about threepence. Two tins is sixpence. Tell the truth and shame the devil.

SURVEYOR : Do you get enough water every day?

MRS. OCANSAY : Surely. I always get water. Why not?

SURVEYOR WITH OTHER  
INTERVIEWEE

SURVEYOR : How many times a day do you have to queue for water?

OTHER INTERVIEWEE : Three times.

SURVEYOR : In the morning and in the afternoon and in the evening?

INTERVIEWEE : Yes.

SURVEYOR : When you go there do you find so many people?

INTERVIEWEE : Yes.

SURVEYOR : What do you do? Do you line up?

INTERVIEWEE : Yes.

SURVEYOR : Do you normally wait some more time?

INTERVIEWEE : About two hours.

SURVEYORS  
WALKING AWAY  
THROUGH  
NIMA

NARRATOR : Where water is in short supply a huge amount of each day must be devoted just to getting it and carrying it. This cuts the time that people, particularly young people, have for learning and building. But Ghana has all the water she needs, stored behind the Akosombo Dam in Lake Volta: the world's largest man-made lake. It's one thing to have it, quite another thing to deliver it where it is needed, at a cost Ghana can afford.

LS LAKE  
VOLTA

A few years ago, the Ghanaian government asked the World Health Organization, WHO, and the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, for help.

APALOO INTERVIEW (SYNC) :

And it was a joint project of the Ghana Government and the UNDP to study the water needs and management needs engineering and others, of a new set-up to provide water and sewerage facilities for the whole country. It was thought necessary to recommend that a master plan should be made which could cover the projected requirements of water for the Accra-Tema area right up to the year AD 2000. We do not intend to be overtaken by events in the future. As and when we are approaching certain

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SYNC APALOO

times, we take steps to see that as a population grows, we are ready to meet their needs.

KPONG WATER  
WORKS

NARRATOR : The heart of the master plan is the new Kpong Water Works, on the Volta River, seven miles below the Akosombo Dam. It was prefinanced and built by a West German consortium, STEPRI. Raw river water is filtered, chemically treated and purified. The Kpong works was built with excess pumping capacity and room for future additions. The production of water can be increased as required to keep up with the growing demand of industry and the population, as anticipated by the master plan. Pure water from the works is pumped through a new underground main to Tema and Accra then it goes into a distribution system which is expanded continually by the newly formed Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation.

WORKMEN  
LAYING  
PIPE

WORKMEN FIXING  
STANDPIPE IN  
CITY

INTERVIEW, EDWARD AGYEMANG, COLUMNIST,  
ACCRA DAILY GRAPHIC : (VO): The Corporation has, for the past two years, done its best to give us water, but they are concentrating too much in the urban areas.

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AGYEMANG  
SYNC

(SYNC) : Until six months ago, I was the Feature Editor of the Daily Graphic and almost every day I received more than 15 letters from the villages, complaining about the water supply there, and on several occasions they invited me to come over to the villages to see the kind of water they drink.

PEOPLE DRAWING  
DIRTY WATER  
FROM RIVERS  
AND  
STREAMS

(VO) : And if you travel say ten or five miles out of the cities, and you see the sort of water the people drink, you pity them because it's just like mud, so in some of the villages what they do is that they travel about two miles away from their village with any receptacle that they get, take the water, bring it home, because, you know, water which you fetch from the river or stream or pond, you know, you must expect all sorts of germs in it.

AGYEMANG SYNC

(SYNC) : I have travelled on four occasions to some of the villages to see the water, because I've been a critic. I have my columns in the paper twice weekly and I've been writing all these things.

APALOO

(SYNC) : You will find our corporation being criticized for concentrating quite a lot on the towns. But in recent months there has been rethinking of this problem too, and side by side with the provision of water for the more populous areas, we are making, if I may say so, frantic efforts to provide water in the rural areas as well.

WORKMEN  
CONSTRUCTING  
WELL AT  
BAWJUASI

WOMEN  
FETCHING  
WATER FROM  
STREAM

NARRATOR : The little cocoa village of Bawjuasi. It is difficult to get here, but man and machines have made it. For generations, the women and children of

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Bawjuasi have fetched water from this pool. Throughout the developing world, there is no single daily task which takes more time and effort than fetching water. Ironically much of the water so painfully collected is the source of deadly or debilitating disease. But old ways of life are deeply ingrained, and the connection between water and disease difficult to see. It will be very hard for the people of Bawjuasi to give up this familiar-tasting water and use the new well. It is part of Ray Quarshie's job as Public Relations Officer of the Water Corporation to help people of Bawjuasi see the need for change.

RAY QUARSHIE  
SPEAKING AT  
BAWJUASI

(SYNC) : About two or three weeks ago, we came here to break this ground to give you fresh drinking water. Now the well is completed. It's now yours.

RAY OPERATES  
PUMP

It is necessary that everybody uses the water from this well. Why should they use this well? Because this water is pure; no disease. But if the people continue going to that place, they will continue having their own diseases. So we hope that this well is the beginning of the development of Bawjuasi.

PEOPLE USING  
WELL



APALOO (VO) : Shallow wells are just temporary measures to provide something immediately for the rural community: but in the long run I am envisaging large waterworks built on the sides of big rivers and distributing them through pipes to the various areas.

PIPES BEING  
LOADED ON  
TRUCK

As a matter of fact, we hope that by the end of the year, we would have perfected 33 new rural water supplies so that the communities in these 33 areas would have their water brought to their doorsteps in pipes.

FESTIVAL IN  
ASIKUMA--  
BRASS BAND,  
PARADES AND  
ENTRANCE OF  
CHIEF

NARRATOR : One of these communities is Bremen Asikuma.

CHIEF  
NANAOMANHANAY'S  
SPEECH OF  
WELCOME

(SYNC): Our respected visitors. On the auspicious occasion of this official opening of the pipeborne water supply at Bremen Askuma, it is with profound pride and great joy that I, for myself, and on behalf of the chiefs and the people of this traditional area, do welcome you to our midst,

While appreciating the good effort of the government in the provision of good drinking water for the people of this area, we would like to say an important point: that ten of the standpipes are so far constructed in this large town with a large population which are quite inadequate for use. We earnestly desire that additional taps should be fixed on

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the streets to prevent future possible clashes at the water points as a result of rushes and survival of the fittest. Thank you.

SPEECH OF  
M. K.  
APALOO

(SYNC) : It's an honour to us to have had the opportunity of doing this service. To provide you the facilities which bring you water into the town in ten public founts as Chief Nanaomanhanay has mentioned. It will now devolve upon yourselves to help extend the public founts to even a hundred if you want them, and it will also devolve upon yourselves to see that you have water in your homes. Today we are beginning the process that will enable you to get water right inside your house. It is not an expensive process, you know. It is as cheap as one bottle of beer, to pay for all the water that you will require in your home for a whole week. And if everybody will go determined to see that he gets water in his own house, then you will see that the women will have plenty of time even to cook you better food, and the little boys will have plenty of time to study more and the little girls will have plenty of time to study more and they will become better mothers, better wives, better citizens of the country. I want you to bear this in mind. I want to see in every home a pipe-borne water, subsidized and paid for by the people of that house because it is very, very cheap. It is the price of one bottle of beer.

APALOO TURNS  
ON WATER  
FOUNTAIN

I have the greatest pleasure in inaugurating the Water Supply System for Bremen Asikuma.

GLASSES OF  
WATER  
DISTRIBUTED  
TO CHIEFS

APALOO SYNC

APALOO (SYNC) : There is a problem of people thinking that water is a gift of God, and, therefore, nobody should demand any payment for it. Well, it's a long standing problem. I must tell you when the first idea of collecting water rates in Accra came, there were riots in the streets of Accra, and a high powered national delegation went to Downing Street to protest against it.

CORPORATION  
ACCOUNTING OFFICE

IBM MACHINES

IBM CARDS

APALOO (VO) : Now we are enjoined by our act to collect all the rates that we can, so we are making a lot of effort. When the corporation started, we noticed we were collecting just about 35 to 45 per cent of what should be coming in. Now, in some areas, we are collecting as high as 80 per cent and some 60 per cent but it's always on the up and up. In the past there was no suitable organization for going out and collecting these rates. Now we are collecting them.

WOMEN YELLING  
IN TESHIE

NARRATOR : Teshie, a small village near Accra. Recently, for the first time in their lives, these people were asked to pay for water. Ray Quarshie describes the situation:

ANGRY WOMEN  
PROTESTING  
WATER  
BILLS

RAY QUARSHIE (VO) : Now Teshie people were complaining that they don't see any reason why they should pay water rates. When people have complaints, it's very difficult to calm them down. Now it was my responsibility to explain our point of view.

OLD WOMAN TALKING  
TO RAY QUARSHIE  
AT TESHIE

RAY QUARSHIE (VO) : An old woman came to me and says 'you are asking me to pay so much'. I can sympathize with a lady like that who is so old, tired, worn out.

RAY QUARSHIE  
SYNC

(SYNC) : She wakes up one morning to find a bill. You know, a thing she has never had. Asking her to come and pay about 67 cedis. And she thinks about it and she goes mad. She can't think about it; she has never had a thing like that. It's anathema to her. People like this, you know, you have to sympathize with them quite a great deal. So this is the actual problem - some of these things are new to some of the people. They have never paid water rates. They have never got bills. They have never been asked to pay an assessable value of their property and all these things are coming up. The results of what? Civilization, you know, progress?

RAY QUARSHIE  
AT OPENING  
OF WATER  
PIPE CEREMONY

(SYNC) : The tide of progress is spreading through the whole country and the fountain that was opened a few minutes ago that is going to be here from now on, shows the interest the Government of this country, through the Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation has for the people of Bremen. And the water that has been opened this morning is a sign that we are moving into the future. But we must all realize that liberties of rights carry with them responsibilities and duties.

PEOPLE AND  
CHILDREN  
LISTENING TO  
SPEECHES,  
AT WATER  
FOUNTAIN

MONTAGE OF  
WATER  
ACTIVITIES,  
PIPES BEING  
LOADED, LAID,  
TRAVELLING  
SHOT OF  
LARGE  
TRUCK ON  
ROAD  
CARRYING  
PIPE.

SUPERIMPOSE  
END TITLES

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NARRATOR : Ray Quarshie went on to say there is no doubt that a lot of people are going to complain. A lot of people are going to suffer. But the aim is to uplift the people's general way of life. To do that Ghana has to move ahead. It is a very tedious kind of work. Very expensive. Very heavy on the ordinary people. But we still have to have it, if we are going to move ahead in economic progress. The main purpose of all we are striving for is to get ourselves into the 20th Century.