Arts Council
OF GREAT BRITAIN

PRESS RELEASE

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ARTS COUNCIL TO ENCOURAGE ETHNIC ARTS

The Arts Council is to incorporate the needs of the ethnic arts as a specific element in its submission to the Government for 1983/84. This was one of the principal recommendations approved by the Council at its January meeting, when the results of a year's monitoring of ethnic arts applications was considered.

The Council unanimously endorsed all the recommendations which resulted from the monitoring exercise. It agreed to explore ways in which current ethnic clients could be given particular encouragement to develop. The Regional Arts Associations particularly concerned with ethnic arts at present are being invited to specify their priorities for development. Client organisations of the Arts Council will be encouraged to consider how an ethnic contribution can be built into their programmes, including the employment of black artists. The Council will continue to develop training opportunities of all kinds for ethnic arts workers. (The full Council discussion paper listing all the recommendations is attached).

During the 12 months of the monitoring exercise from August 1980 to August 1981 the Council received about 130 ethnic arts applications. Positive recommendations were made in 96 cases. This is comparable with the overall success rate of 2,140 cases out of a total of 2,890 applications. The Council's direct expenditure on ethnic arts in England amounted to £335,000, but this excluded all Regional Arts Association expenditure and takes no account of the ethnic content of programmes presented by the Council's non-ethnic clients (a list of some of the Council's directly supported ethnic arts activities is attached).

A similar monitoring service has been conducted by the Regional Arts Associations (a list of RAA initiatives is attached).

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