

## HOW TO AID A WAR DAMAGED TV ARCHIVE?

World wide television archives are important for safeguarding and preservation of the invaluable audiovisual documents. Their contents belong to the historical and cultural heritage of the Nations.

In war times and during natural disasters, the archives can be damaged or completely destroyed, with the entire collective visual memory of a community thus erased.

Following the principles of the mutual international solidarity we should aim at helping the war damaged archives and give aid in reconstructing their archive funds.

This is the case of the TV archive of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the besieged capital of Sarajevo. As a fixed target under the heavy artillery shelling the archive is likely to be either badly damaged or completely destroyed.

Some 70% of the Bosnian territory is under the Serbian control, so the equivalent amount of the AV documentation has been probably transferred to Belgrade. The 30% of the territory is under the control of the Croats and Moslems and this portion of AV documentation is partly deposited in the Croatian television in Zagreb.

The programme of the Bosnian television is now being transmitted and viewed only in the Sarajevo area.

Since any other archive could become a victim of such incidents, we propose that a framework for aiding the needy archives be established upon this occasion and recommendations submitted to all world tv archives.

How can we help a needy archive, in this case the tv archive of Bosnia and Herzegovina?

I propose that:

- Lists of the AV documents with the war material from Bosnia, produced by their parent station, should be made by all archives. After the war the material should be given to the TV archive of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Copying should be allowed free of charge after the selection of the relevant AV material. In this case the Bosnian TV archive should not sell the material thus obtained.
- The cassettes with the previously recorded war material could be donated by the more prosperous TV archives.
- The adequate format would be arranged with the needy TV archive.
- Special attention should be given to the news services such as ITN, CNN, WTN, Reuters etc., whose reporters from Bosnia have produced some brilliant war coverage. Assistance could be requested from these services as well.
- The representatives of the world organisation of FIAT/IFTA could visit the needy archives and ascertain other ways and means of help on the spot.
- Appeal for funds should be launched to UNESCO and the world manufacturers of video material and television equipment.

- Our colleagues from the troubled archives should be able to attend professional seminars free of charge, organised by the modern archives in the neighbouring countries (RAI or ORF in this case).

The archive of the Croatian Television will be included in the solidarity action and give help to the TV archive of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as to any other needy archive.

**(By Branko Bubenik, HTV)**