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To: Mr. Voya Rajic  
Director of Production  
SBS, 4 Cliff Street, Milsons Point NSW 2061

Dear Sir,

Two Documentary Projects

These proposals deal with two 52 minutes programs submitted to you as part of the package solicited for "The Cutting Edges" and "Connections".

1 .THE ISLES OF GOLD takes a quizzical look at the enthusiasts who claim there is hard evidence for a brief but significant presence in Australia by Portuguese explorers, traders and would be colonists in the sixteenth century.

It will take a light-hearted look at the kind of Australia we might be living now if they had stayed on to found a Portuguese province, [Provincia Ultramarina] to become independent in 1975. It will also portray an alternative Australia seen as totally different from the country we inhabit today.

2 .WHERE'S HOME? Is a study in exile; refugees who come to terms with the impossibility of return and have to look forward. This project will be unique in observing their life in Australia compared to those left in Portugal, through the eyes of their separated family members.

We expect each of these two programs to be within a suitable schedule and budgetary constraints. While there is a real prospect of some assistance and support from several Portuguese agencies, the project viability and production value does not depend upon that happening.

Sincerely,



Mr. J. Chrys Chrystello  
Writer & Producer  
P.O.Box 731 Bondi Junction NSW 2022  
Tel. : (02) 398 9030 (AH) 314 6044 (BH)  
Fax: (02) 398 9030 (AH) 398 4885 (BH)

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## The Isles of Gold

This is a program that will ask the audience, through dramatisation, to consider a number of questions; some of them are thematic, others are of specific interest. Some of the questions we can answer, others are the subject of active controversy or of entertaining speculation.

This program will entwine two approaches. A straight account of the historical and archaeological evidence with its rattling controversy. In the counter thread we will indulge in some frivolity and demonstrate a few of the possibilities that a 'latin' rather than 'anglo' origin may suggest by constructing a fictional present-day and future television report on our 'Alternative Australia'.

### What would Australia look like in 1992?

This will be a journey through fact, controversy and fantasy. Through it we intend to understand something of who we are or who we might have been, to entertain our audience with the vast possibilities of our future.

If the report of the Mendonça Expedition had fallen in 1525 onto the desk of some other Court officer, would Sydney now be called Nova Lisboa and would the Hunter Valley be the site of a thriving "Vinho Verde" industry with typical esplanades, long lunches followed by 'siestas' and an evening at a promenade would have become part of our life?

The antics of the Pope Alexander VI (Rodrigo Borgia, father of Lucretia) and his actions to assume temporal power in a bull, "Inter cetera divina" of May 1493, that divided the New World (that's everything not known to the Classical World) into two halves; one for the taking by Spain, the other by Portugal. By this act, he unknowingly changed what Australia might have become.

### Would Australia be impoverished like Mozambique?

Through dramatisation and images we will make parallels with other Portuguese overseas provinces [ Provincias Ultramarinas ] and what they became.

We will take a light-hearted look at what kind of 'Terra Australis' might these alternative histories have developed into, up to the fictional day in 1975 when Australia became an independent republic from colonial Portugal.

This will be done through a presentation of shots of African, Portuguese and Aboriginal people speaking creole in a Portuguese look-alike environment on a recreation of the independence day of Portugal's southernmost colony.

Posed as hypothetical, this project will lead us into a different Australia on the verge of the 21st. century, paying tribute to Captain Mendonça (instead of Cook), being a republic, celebrating Captain Arthur Phillip as a naval expert defending the Portuguese colonies of South America.

We will use layers of elaborate and novel electronics effects to integrate the many visual threads. Would history made us impoverished and war-torn as Angola and Mozambique or a mixed country like Brazil? Would we be part of the EEC or part of Asia and the Pacific?

### The Portuguese as first Europeans

Kenneth MCINTYRE has described the tantalizing theory of early sixteenth century exploration of most of the Australian coast, and one of Mendonça's caravels is being searched and this renewed interest in the 'Mahogany ship' at Warrnambool is timely to show how Portuguese we would be.

Some W.A. Aboriginal tribes speak a Portuguese creole. Prof. Dr. Van Brandenstein claims that there was a Portuguese settlement in W.A. where the Ngarluma, Karriera, Yindjiparndi, Yawulibarra languages were permeated by Portuguese vocabulary and grammar. We will show present glimpses of a society filled with aborigines speaking Portuguese creole.

## EAST TIMORESE EXILES: WHERE'S HOME?

The exile is a special figure in the story of every culture. He or she is much discussed, written about, defined. But the experience is usually so diverse as to defy analysis. This project will show, mainly through interviews, that the lot of East Timorese refugees is much better here in Australia.

### Refugees or exiles? Just dump them somewhere

The key characteristic of the East Timorese refugees is that they have unwillingly been dumped either into Portugal or into Australia; each group being made of similar kinds of people. The novel approach proposed for this program is to view those refugees as if they were two deliberately divided groups of laboratory subjects in a sociological experiment.

Groups, families and individuals will be interviewed at social events, in their homes and at work. There will be a natural contrast of texture: an apartment in Lisbon, a council flat in Brunswick, Australian suburbia, a refugee do Vale do Jamor (Lisbon) with all exploitable variables of sounds and sights coupled retrospective views of pre-1975 East Timor.

### How painful it was and/or is to be a refugee?

While they explain the difficulties and opportunities experienced, the characteristics of the two host countries will become visible. There is the final irony that Portugal supports their cause, and Australia is an ally of their most bitter enemies.

We will show the pressures on families separated between Australia, Portugal and Timor with parallel accounts, through the eyes of three generations living in remote parts of world. Do they hold together under the cultural influences of Australia, or the economic pressures in Portugal? How do they cope with their desire to go 'home' and ambitions to build careers and lives in the adopted countries?

### How these two countries have changed and what future they expect

We will also note how Australia and Portugal have changed since 1975. Australia is becoming less generous, and rapidly dividing its citizens into the rich and the poor, with high unemployment. Portugal is a rapidly growing country with its national barriers now evaporating into the EEC, where its citizens can now freely work or travel. Is this an opportunity or yet another divisive force?

Differences of wealth, social, health services, neighbourhood support, cultural familiarity, language barriers, job opportunities and citizenship will be obvious. This will offer an insight on how exiles (not only the Timorese) have hopes and fears for their future.

A trip into the mind of refugees separated across the world. All these factors have a place in the minds of those, who, willingly or not, have come to the point of accepting their exile. And given the terror that caused them to flee, how whole hearted can such acceptance ever truly be?

This is a program that asks key questions.

Who am I?

What is my culture?

Is 'my' future the same thing as 'our' future?

In short: **WHERE'S HOME?**

**The Crew:**

Writer & Producer: J. Chrys Chrystello

Assistant Producer: Zoe Reynolds

Director: Gil Scrine

Cinematographer: Joel Peterson

Script & Film Editor: Rod Hibberd

Sound Supervisor: Hugo de Vries

**Producer and script writer**

CHRYS CHRYSTELLO is an independent journalist and economics graduate who works for the Portuguese TV network RTP, Radio RDP and TDM Macao Radio and Portuguese papers as well as Hong Kong Television, HK TVB Pearl among other medium.

Chrys has researched and scripted films and documentaries, having lived in South East Asia and the South Pacific Region for the past 21 years, Chrys is an expert on East Timor and Indonesia politics.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

January 83 current Head of the independent news agency PNN

January 88 current Foreign Correspondent for the Official Portuguese Radio Broadcasting Network "RDP/Rádio Comercial",

April 1991 Oct. 1991 Senior Journalist for the Dept. Health Housing & Community Services

July 1983-Nov. 1990 Journalist & Exclusive Foreign Correspondent for the Official News Agency, "ANOP/LUSA"

January 83 current Exclusive Correspondent for TDM Macao Radio & TV Networks & Correspondent for the Portuguese official TV network RTP (News Department)

November 88 March 91 Exclusive Correspondent for Australia & the South Pacific Region for the daily newspapers "Europeu" and "Público" (Lisbon)

1977 - 1988 Journalist/P.R. Officer with DEET

November 81 current Staff writer for the Macao Social Communication & Information Dept. magazines "Sábado", "Nam Van", "Macau".

Jan. 1980  
Jan. 1983 Radio Producer/Presenter of current affairs programs, Rádio 7/ Rádio Macao,

Jan. 1978  
Dec. 1982 Reporter and correspondent for the channel of the Hong Kong Television HK / TVB Pearl,

1977 - 1979 Newsreader/News Translator, ERM / Rádio Macao,

Sep. 1973  
April 1975 Editor and Editor in Chief "A VOZ DE Timor" Dili, East Timor,

May 1968-  
Oct. 1973 Sports Editor and Assistant News Editor Rádio Renascença, Oporto, Portugal,

May 1968-  
Oct. 1973 Staff member of Radio shows "Página 1" "Tempo-Zip" [Rádio Renascença],

1966 - 1968 Junior Editor for the weekly magazine "Musidisco"

Producer of TV programs (Current Affairs) for the Macau TV Network "TDM" and the Portuguese TV Network "RTP", 1986 - 1991

Australian representative on behalf of AJA [Australian Journalists Association] to the 3rd. International Seminar on East Timor, May 1991, sponsored by the University of Oporto and with the presence of delegates from all over the world.

#### The Assistant Producer

ZOE REYNOLDS is a freelance journalist and Asian Studies graduate (Australian National University, 1979), who first started in journalism on a Jakarta daily in 1981. After returning to Australia in December, 1982 she worked for the 'Sydney Morning Herald' and 'The Sun Herald' ( 1983 - 85 ) before going freelance.

Zoe returned to Jakarta in December '85 to research stories that were co-produced the following year for Radio 2GB, and AEC Radio (Background Briefing: The Trials of Suharto).

Between 1987 - 89 Zoe worked as a regular contributor (reporter/producer) for SBS Television's 'Vox Populi'. Her reports during this time included two half hour specials - 'Shadow People' (nominated for the UN Media Peace Awards in 1988) which examined the activities of Indonesian intelligence / consular officials in Australia, and the widely acclaimed 'Worked to Death', an exposé of the killing and maiming of immigrant workers on Australian work sites.

In 1988 Zoe was also awarded an ASEAN visit scholarship to shoot 'Dirty Business', a half hour report on how multinationals were employing private armies and death squads in the Philippines (broadcast on SBS TV's Dateline and Canadian TV). Her last major report for SBS was 'Little Saigon' (October 1989). The forerunner of 'I, Spy', the report first established the link between organised crime and ex-patriot Vietnamese in Australia.

## Director:

GIL SCRINE has had more than twenty years of experience in topical documentaries and has received international and national awards. With films he has so far produced, directed or written, Gil is one of the most capable people to reproduce the concepts of these projects. Some of his previous works include:

1974	'Paul's Blues'	a 16 mm, b&w 12 minute working class fable.
1975	'The Prisoner'	original screenplay
1976	'The bad society'	a 16 mm, 25 mins., reflection on the philosophy of ex-deputy Prime minister, Dr. Jim Cairns.
1981	'Home on the range'	16 mm, col, 58 mins. Investigation of the role of US bases in Australia, namely Pine Gap and the CIA link.
1983	'The legend of Lenny Quinn'	
1984	'Kemira, diary of a strike'	16 mm, col, 58 mins, directed by Tom Zubrycki on a sit-in strike in Woollongong.
1988	'Strangers in Paradise'	16 mm, col, 58 mins, a bicentenary journey across Australia, through the eyes of American tourists, directed by Tom Zubrycki.
1989	'Buried Alive: The story of East Timor'	16 mm, col, 58 mins. A history of the East Timor struggle through the eyes of their UN representative.
1991	'A Thousand miles from care'	16 mm, 58 mins, against a background of the Gulf War a tiny publishing war between two suburban newspapers. Made on a FELLOWSHIP awarded by the AFC and ABC/TV "in recognition of excellence and innovation in previous works"
	'Point.22'	original treatment for telemovie
	'Dreams of no return'	original screenplay
	'Written on the wind'	original screenplay

## Cinematographer:

JOEL PETERSON has become a household name in the last two decades, dealing with Kennedy-Miller, Gil Scrine, W. Wenders, Anne Deveson, Gillian Coote, and a dozen of film makers. His experience is almost unparalleled in Australia and he has got international credits for his work.

A short description will include 1990's "Until the end of the world" with William Hurt, Max Von Sydow, Sam Neill and Solveig Donmartin. In 1992 a "View from the edge" stories the El Salvadorian people living in Melbourne and in the same year he has directed "You can't push the river". Back in 1991, "Cinesound Wars" tracing the history of director K.G. Hall from the early 50's, "Wild" examining the Eric Rolls' book "A million wild acres" and another challenging project "Thousand miles from care"

Other previous jobs include "Spinning Out" [relating to schizophrenia], "Bran Nue Dae" [the first aboriginal musical] and "Islands of Lies" a journey into Australia's dark past.

Other works include "Beneath Indian skies [1989], "The Voices [1988], with an award in ACS, "Red Flag over Tibet [1988]" and many other successful projects.

## The Script & Film Editor

ROD HIBBERD has a CV that reads like a list of 'Who's Who' and that is the main reason we are leaving behind a summary of his work. Firstly, we would run out of paper, secondly, we would be destroying thousands of trees, and thirdly if you have never heard of his name you're not in business.

After so many years and awards if he can't get this one for us, no one else will and this has saved the world 55 pages or i.e. 3 trees from the Amazon. Being a wild animal, Rod often gets in touch with humankind, but with his previous credits and honours we are putting him on the spot, can you do it again? That was the question I have asked just before mailing this letter.

He said he could, and that is why we feel confident on these two projects.

## Sound Supervisor

HUGO DE VRIES has a long career as a professional sound recordist for film and television documentary productions. He has major credits in Holland and in Australia for his field work in many countries of the world. He has received the AFI Award for "Best Sound".