

MEMO

To: David Francis

From Michael Moulds

RE: BFI proposal on PIP

31 March 1981

The Documentation Commission would much prefer the PIP to remain within FIAF if at all possible.

We need time, before a decision is taken, to investigate alternative solutions to the financial problems of PIP.

There are possibilities in two directions: saving costs and increasing revenue.

1. Actually not a lot can be done in saving costs since PIP has been run on a shoestring from the beginning and most avenues have already been explored in detail. However the printing of the annual volume in Eastern Europe is one possibility which should be pursued further.

2. Increasing revenue

- a. Cooperative scheme: some archives to pay more
- b. Eastern European countries may be able to pay next year
- c. Sales of annual volume
- d.d. Unesco proposal for developing countries
- e. Sale of Television volume

As far as my own position is concerned, as things are at present I am prepared to make a full commitment to the PIP. However if the BFI were to take it over I would want to look very carefully at the situation.

Finally I think it should be emphasised to the Executive that although the PIP is a financial problem it nevertheless is an extremely valuable asset for FIAF, which should not be given away lightly, and without safeguards. It embodies 9 years of hard and expert work, and the authority files in particular are unique and would be very useful to any archive.