The National Radio Project is a division of the International Media Project.

Making Contact, is the flagship program of the National Radio Project. Now, in its 6th year of production, this weekly public affairs program which features voices and perspectives not often heard in the mass media is now heard on approximately 160 stations across the United States, Canada and S. Africa.

Specialized Desks are outreach, training, editorial and production units, critical to the functioning of the National Radio Project.

The Women’s Desk is the most mature of NRP’s desk and provides a model for how other desks might function, collaborating with a variety of community based organizations. In 2000, the Desk produced 3 segments ("Growing Incarceration rates of Girls," "Sexist Advertising," "Women and Public Housing") and, 3 full shows ("En La Casa: Domestic Violence in Latin America," “Delta on Fire: Nigerian Women’s Resistance,” and “Women’s Rights, Human Rights”) for NRP’s Making Contact series. The Desk offered several classes on radio production, as well as one on one mentoring. Women journalists and organizers have brought their energy talents and passions to NRP through the Desk and have participated in editorial decisions, as well as production.

The Prison Desk has also brought in new organizers and journalists. As a result, connections with new organizations were made, some organizers were trained in radio production and the following shows were produced, “Suspect Generation: The Criminalization of Youth,” and “Race, Class and the U.S. Death Penalty.”

The Globalization Desk has served as an outreach, editorial and production unit. The Desk produced the special one hour “Globalization Voices of Resistance” which explains the policies of globalization and key institutions behind them, through the stories of people from the Global South. The Desk has produced numerous programs including “Beyond Seattle: Free Trade and Democracy,” “The Debt Teadmill: Cyclical Poverty in the Third World,” and “Grassroots Organizing in the Global South,”among others. The Desk was integrally involved in the production of the special series “Inside Capital.”

Special Programs produced in the year 2000 in addition to the one hour “Globalization Voices of Resistance” include several week-long programs from the site of politically significant meetings and grassroots mobilizations.

“Inside Capital: From the Streets and Suites of Washington, DC, and around the World” was produced in collaboration with Free Speech Radio News, with studio space donated by Public Citizen. This half hour daily program aired for one-week during the April 2000 meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and the Mobilization for Global Justice. It looked at the impacts of economic policies pursued by the Bank and Fund through the stories of those living in the Global South. The series provided an in-depth look at global economic and social policy.

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“UnConventional Coverage” broadcast direct for one hour Mon-Fri from the Philadelphia and Los Angeles sites of the Republican and Democratic Conventions in summer 2000. This program looked at the issues and positions raised by the parties and their candidates, as well as issues and positions raised by those outside of the meeting halls. The series provided an in-depth look at public policy on a wide variety of issues in the U.S. today.

Intern Akiko Sakai from Japan interned in NRP’s administration/program area. Orla Rapple, from Ireland interned for six months with the production department.

Educational Materials Tapes and transcripts of NRP programs have been used in high school and college classrooms, lock-down psychiatric facilities, senior centers, parish education programs, social change campaigns and newsletters, lending libraries and many other public education forums.

Fiscal Sponsor Programs The International Media Project acts as fiscal sponsor for F.I.R.E. (Feminist International Radio Endeavor) based in Costa Rica and ARPAS based in El Salvador. This program is open to other interested organizations.

Participation in Public Forums: Throughout the year, NRP staff have given talks in college classrooms, been guests on radio and television programs, been on panels and facilitated workshops at conferences, including the National Federation of Community Broadcasters and the Grassroots Radio Conference.

Survey of Non-Commercial Radio Stations NRP was funded to plan for the production of a pilot daily half hour news program. This included an in-depth survey of 45 non-commercial radio stations (half of which were NPR and half Pacifica affiliates) about their current news sources and news needs. The survey showed that there is a real need for a news program that offers stories not covered by the mainstream press, that offers different angles on mainstream news, that provides in-depth information, that offers international and rural stories, and that is less focused on the East Coast and Washington D.C. One staff person attended the Grassroots Radio Conference to present the survey results, continue the discussion and seek potential collaborations with stations across the country. The grant also enabled us to plan and budget for the production process.

Looking Ahead: Through its specials the National Radio Project has gained the depth of experience and maturity needed to embark upon a new project, the production of a pilot of a half hour daily international news show. If the pilot is well received we will seek funding to make this an ongoing series.