

John Humphrys, presenter for Radio 4 news programme *Today*, was asked:

Would Michael Buerk's reports have been more effective if he had been holding back the tears as he delivered the commentary?

He answered,

No. ... He wrote a spare and powerful commentary and left it to us to form our own judgement.

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It's the little things that you notice in this cacophony of misery ... The whole thing is emotionally overwhelming.

You take some sort of refuge in the mechanics of the job that you do ... but there are limits, and it got very close to the limit of being able to function in the midst of all that, because you feel an overwhelming sense of inadequacy.

The only Europeans who were there were aid workers, and you weren't, you were just a journalist, and at that particular moment I couldn't think of a more useless occupation.

MICHAEL BUERK