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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (ohara)

Henri Temianka

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CALIFORNIA CHAMBER SYMPHONY SOCIETY, INC.

HENRI TEMIANKA FOUNDER / DIRECTOR

June 3, 1983

Mr. R. O'Hara
Assistant Director
Cultural Presentations Office (Urban)
Cultural Services Department, U.S.D.
Edinburgh Place, 6/F
High Block, City Hall
Hong Kong

RE: Letter dated 17 May 1983
Your Ref.: (128) in S/F (342) in CUSD CP (U) 05/1 II

Dear Mr. O'Hara:

In yesterday's mail I received a letter from Mr. Oswald Lim, dated 17th May but postmarked Hong Kong May 24, stating that the Hong Kong Urban Council "will not be in a position to consider your kind offer for a re-engagement of the California Chamber Symphony in 1984."

Mr. Lim's statement is both incorrect and unacceptable. I did not make any offer. On January 3 of this year, in Peter Miller's office, Mr. Miller, in the presence of Mr. Lim and Mr. S. L. Chan, made an unequivocal commitment for the re-engagement of our group on the three specific dates which he offered us, i.e., November 20, 22, and 23, 1984. I must assume that you are not aware of this meeting and this commitment. You should have no difficulty in obtaining confirmation of the facts from your three representatives. The dates were entered in the calendar in my presence.

With complete faith in the integrity of the Hong Kong Urban Council, I have informed both our Board of Trustees and the members of our orchestra of the arrangements concluded. Five precious months have passed since then, during which we contacted the Urban Council half a dozen times via telex, letters and one personal long distance call to Mr. Miller. All we wanted was a written confirmation of the dates on your letterhead so as to satisfy the U.S. State Department requirements and be in a position to co-ordinate additional engagements with the Hong Kong commitment.

At no time did we receive a forthright reply, as a result of which our hands remained tied. Now, at long last five months later, we are told that the Hong Kong Urban Council will not honor its commitment. This is unacceptable, and incompatible with the Urban Council's known standards of integrity.

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Mr. R. O'Hara
June 3, 1983

The Board of Trustees of the California Chamber Symphony Society joins me in expressing the hope that you will not approve the course of action proposed by Mr. Lim, all the more incomprehensible in view of the outstanding success of our concerts. Both the quality of the Hong Kong performances and the extraordinary audience response are documented in a videotape made during the Hong Kong concerts, a copy of which will be made available to you upon request.

Looking forward to your early response.

Yours sincerely,

Henri Temianka
Founder/Director

HT:sk

cc: Hilton Cheong-leen, OBE, JP, Chairman
Oswald S. L. Lim, Manager, Cultural Presentations
Darwin Chen, JP, Director of Cultural Services