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Dr Gordon Sperritt
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Dear Gordon,

Recently, as the Australian Liaison Officer of the International Council for Traditional Music (formerly the IFMC), I have been in contact with Dieter Christensen (Secretary-General) on the subject of improving and furthering the work of ICTM. I have submitted two proposals, one major the other minor, and am anxious to have your comments, especially on the former. As you might imagine, I have had to keep commitments to the Musicological Society of Australia well in focus.

Andrew McCredie has offered no objections to the following 'minor' proposal : that the ICTM make available to the MSA members who attend the May Conference in Adelaide this year copies of a brochure or Bulletin setting out the aims and functions of the Council. It is my belief that the MSA and the ICTM could both benefit if reciprocal information were to be circulated from time to time.

Dieter would like me to formulate my 'major' proposal in more detail so that he can bring it before the next Board meeting in Czechoslovakia, 5-9 July. It was put forward, very briefly, in answer to a letter sent out last January to liaison officers in countries where a National Committee of the ICTM does not exist. The proposal is that, instead of an Australian National Committee of ICTM, we seek to establish a South Pacific Committee or Regional Group; and that plans towards this end might be drawn up at John Kelsey's Goroka meeting next August.

Before taking this matter any further, however, I would be glad to hear from you whether, and in what way, this would affect the 'Oceanic music' component of the IMS in which you have taken such an active part. By 'South Pacific' I envisage the region south of the equator including Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, various islands and perhaps Chile as well; and I would prefer to speak in terms of places, rather than of ethnic groups such as Melanesians, Polynesians etc. A South Pacific Committee of the ICTM would aim to encourage musicological development in these places (Andrew has already done some valuable spade work here on behalf of MSA) and also to assist in sound archival (including documentation) developments. In my opinion every impetus should be given to the establishment and maintenance of sound archives in the South Pacific region, that is, to the preservation and control of sound-recorded musicological resources. Members of such a Committee or Working Group, would represent places where the most interest is

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shown in carrying out this aim. Hopefully, it would be quite a large committee. The ICTM *Yearbook*, to be known as the YEARBOOK OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC should provide a ready outlet for papers of the required standard -- a readier outlet, I should say, than either the MSA or the IMS can provide. Only this week I received the IMS Report on the 1977 Berkeley Congress. You are to be congratulated for your part in it, anyway.

I wish to emphasise that this proposal does not necessarily mean that another Conference will be added to our already conference-ridden lives. I see the South Pacific Committee as functioning as a relay point, conveying information into areas which might best benefit by it. The South Pacific Festival activities might, on occasions, be utilised as appropriate gathering centres; and space could surely be provided on an MSA Conference programme for a South Pacific colloquium, if not every year, then possibly every other year.

If you have any criticisms to make of this proposal, believe me I would welcome them. If I don't hear from you, I shall send Dieter a draft proposal along the lines set out above. If the ICTM Board thinks it feasible, then perhaps we can go into the matter more fully when we meet at ANZAAS - or at Goroka? I have been invited to contribute to ISME which is to take place in Bristol, England, this year (late July). I can just manage Goroka after this, but not Strasbourg.

All power to your impressively large class in the Introduction to Musicology. I only wish we had something like it in Canberra. Till ANZAAS, then.

Yours sincerely,