

AM/EG

29 March 1983.

Mr E.L. Fisher
Secretary
Australian National Commission for UNESCO
P.O. Box 826,
WODEN. A.C.T. 2606.

Dear Mr Fisher,

I write with reference to my letter of 30 November, 1982 and to the report which I sent to you following my attendance at the Ninth meeting for Co-production of Cultural/Education Material convened by Mr R. Ito of the ACCU.

You may remember that, in the report, I emphasised the need in Australia for 'a clearing house' for sound - recorded music from Asia and the Pacific and a place where material such as the ACCU recordings may be "stored and satisfactorily disseminated".

After a recent telephone conversation, with your deputy, Mr John Elsom, I visited the National Library of Australia and was able to discuss this aspect of my report with the Director-General, Mr Harrison Bryan.

I am now pleased to inform you that Mr Bryan has given his permission for ACCU recordings to be sent to the National Library's Sound Recordings Section (Head: Peter Burgis) where they will be kept under optimum storage conditions.

In answer to Mr Bryan's question about the need 'to promote' these recordings, I replied that the ACCU, itself, was devoting 1983 to the promotion of its own 'co-productions'; and that in my view, it was particularly important to set up in Australia a national sound collection of recorded music from Asia and the Pacific, more particularly the South Pacific regions. I see this as ultimately becoming an important basis for the development of musciological research in these areas and also for stimulating a general interest in the cultures of peoples who live to the immediate north and south of us.

Over the past 20 years in Canberra, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, has built up a valuable archive of recorded Aboriginal music. It would be to benefit of this archive and its users, if comparative sound recordings from Asia and the Pacific were also accessible in Canberra at the National Library.

I believe Mr Bryan is ready to communicate with you on this matter, now that you have been informed of my discussions with him. As Mr Elsom has suggested, it would be helpful to prospective users of Asian and Pacific recordings of music, if the National Library were to draw attention, in its information circulars, to recent acquisitions in these areas, including of course those from the ACCU.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Alice Moyle