

Ethnomusicology Section.

20th June, 1966.

Professor Ronald M. Berndt,
Department of Anthropology,
University of Western Australia,
NEDLANDS, Western Australia.

Dear Professor Berndt,

Thank you for your letter of 13th June and your reply to my queries. I can understand your reluctance to make recorded and other material available for the IFMC Broadcast.

Since hearing from you I have discussed both the programme and its implications with Trevor. We are agreed that Australian Aboriginal music should be represented on this programme and will contribute song-items from our own field collections. As the situation stands at present we know of no rules of copyright which would be thus infringed though we are not unmindful of the problems you have emphasised.

Answers to questions about copyright in regard to "traditional" music are being sought in many countries at the present time. The International Folk Music Council has such matters constantly under review. And you may remember, at the recent A.I.A.S. conference, the Ethnomusicology Group recommended that song copyright, ownership, payment of performers, etc., be investigated by a committee especially formed for this purpose and without delay.

The situation in regard to the pros and cons of Aboriginal song rights seems to me to be an especially complicated one. From the point of view of some of the older Aboriginal men - as I understand it - the chief collector of royalties should be a totem!

We shall be requesting a copy of the UNESCO programme. As soon as it becomes available you may like to hear it.

With kindest regards to you both,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Alice M. Moyle
A.I.A.S. Research Fellow