

**UN-Secretariat matters -  
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UN/Secretariat matters 1955

UN Orchestra

15 March - 25 Aug.

D.H. — to Ahmed S. Bokhari (Dept. of Public Inform.)  
— to George Hoyen (Exec. Div.) UNISOMI Inc., N. York

L 179:97

Mr. Ahmed S. Bokhari, Under-Secretary, Department of  
Public Information  
The Secretary-General

Enquiry regarding United Nations Sponsorship of a  
Symphony Orchestra

15 March 1955

There have been recently a number of references in the press to the formation of a symphony orchestra under United Nations auspices and using "United Nations" in its name.

The Secretary-General's position is the following:

(1) Neither the formation of such an orchestra nor the use of the name of the United Nations in this connexion has been authorized by the Secretary-General.

(2) The Secretary-General is grateful to the many friends and well-wishers of the United Nations who have sought to express their good will in this form, and does not preclude the possibility that the idea may develop along practical lines at some future date.

(3) The appropriate agency to consider the details of any project to establish an international orchestra of the nature envisaged, is UNESCO.

*Consul*

25 August 1955

Dear Mr. Høyen,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 23 August 1955 in which you outline certain of your views regarding concerts at the United Nations.

As you have already been informed, it is not possible for us to engage in a general programme of concerts. It will be possible upon occasion to have concerts in connection with specific United Nations days such as 24 October and 10 December. Mr. Lehtinen, Permanent Observer of Finland to the United Nations, discussed with me the possibility of a concert of Sibelius music to be given on Human Rights Day, close to 8 December, the birthday of the great composer. I agreed that it was fitting that our programme on Human Rights Day, 10 December, indirectly should pay homage to Sibelius by presenting some works of his. I will be in touch with Mr. Lehtinen with regard to various aspects of this programme.

My own staff has hitherto handled the planning for the few concerts that we have had and they are now engaged in planning for the two events for this autumn. I think it would rather complicate matters to have initiatives taken or commitments made through any other source.

Very sincerely yours,

Dag Hammarskjöld,  
Secretary-General

Mr. George Høyen,  
Executive Director,  
UNISOMI, Incorporated,  
Hotel Plaza,  
New York 19, N.Y.

AWC:dg

cc. Mr. Lehtinen