

File

PC1118/5/39



9th October, 1963

Mr. Krishna Shah,
Apartment 1-B,
252 West 75th Street,
New York 23,
NEW YORK.....U.S.A.

Dear Krishna,

Your letter dated October 1st has just arrived. Is it this sort of delay in the mail which makes me very nervous. It is a little disconcerting to try and bridge the gap from one letter to the next. I have written to Mary Frank about the sets and enclose a copy of this letter.

Thank you for the explanation about the costumes. I have already discussed your concept with Ruth, and we both think that your idea is excellent. She will write to you in detail on Friday suggesting other symbols which can be used in the first two acts.

I do not think that we are going to be able to bring Gideon with us. You must understand that we have immense difficulties dealing with the Department of the Interior and I do not think it is wise to complicate matters by putting in a fresh application at this stage. In any event, there are a couple of points that you must consider. Gideon is a first-class composer, but he is not nearly as experienced a choral conductor as Osborne. You must bear in mind that the music in Sponono is now very familiar to all our singers, as they were performing it daily for six months after you last heard them. The new people are very much better singers than their replacements and one or two of them have also had experience leading choirs. Therefore, you will find the music much less of a problem than it was here. Finally, Gideon has been undergoing a considerable crisis in his personal life and Meshack and I are extremely nervous about what would happen to him in America. I think that he would be very difficult to control and we feel that he will unnecessarily complicate our disciplinary problems. In short, we feel strongly that we must manage without him.

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You will by now have seen the film, and must advise us as soon as possible about casting.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,


IAN E. BERNHARDT.
MANAGER.

c.c. Mr. Alan Paton

Mrs. Mary K. Frank.