KMM 1 TKP 189

Ref. MO242.

August 1st., 1938.

Mr. M. S. Radebe,
27B, Siemert Rd.,
Doornfontein,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter dated the 22nd utlimo. I have also spoken to Miss Moshoela and I think she has conveyed to me the explanation which you wished her to give. Further, I have before me your letter of the 21st June as also my reply to that letter dated the 2nd July.

I gathered from Miss Moshoela that you thought I did not understand your first letter, but I have explained to her that your letter was well understood and my reply to it was quite definite on the material point namely, your "desire of recording the musick of my people at Mafeking".

(1) According to Miss Moshoela your proposal is for the companies to go to Mafeking for recording. Now, Mafeking is 300 miles from Serowe, and you will be able to calculate the expense these musical companies are likely to incur if they were to go to Mafeking; there is the Railway expense, the boarding and lodging whilst they are at Mafeking, and the personal remuneration.

(2) There are no standing musical companies in this country, and it means one has to organize a company solely for

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KMM 1 TKP 189



the purpose you have in view. Perhaps Miss Moshoela might be able to assist you in organizing such a company or in getting somebody to organize it: personally I doubt whether the project will be enthusiastically taken up.

(3) The school children are of course always available if one were to come to Serowe and do the recording on the sport, but it is impossible to expect the school children to go all the way to Mafeking during school term just for recording purposes.

(4) There is no electricity in the country except along the railway line. Even there the plant is for the exclusive use of the Railway, the private individuals living at the Railway Station who have electricity in their houses have done so by special arrangement.

I am giving you these facts to enable you to judge the position yourself, so that should you decide to come to Serowe to talk the matter over with us you will be in full possession of the facts.

Realising the impracticability of the Serowe people to go to Mafeking I fully believed that you meant recording the music of the people of Mafeking at Mafeking, and that was why I referred you to Chief Lotlamoreng.

Yours in haste,