A PROPOSAL FOR A GOOD WILL TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES

BY THE RED ARMY CHOIR OF THE U.S.S.R.

The general proposal is for the Red Army Chorus to make a good will tour of the United States of America either during the spring of 1946 or the fall of 1946 depending upon the length of time that the chorus could be released from its activities in the U.S.S.R.

The broad objective of the tour would be to augment good will between the peoples of the United States and Russia and to acquaint the people of the United States not only with the current music of Russia but also to give them a visual idea at the same time of the high standards of the victorious Russian army. Since the idea of a tour of this kind would be primarily one of fostering the above mentioned objectives, the financial returns could be allocated to Russian Army Relief, the Russian Red Cross or any other Russian organization designated by the Russian government.

ORGANIZATION OBJECTIVES

It is proposed that the Red Army Chorus' good will tour of America be at the direct invitation of the President of the United States, the chiefs of staff of the Army and Navy of the United States and that a permanent sponsoring committee be organized to include not only the heads of the government, the Army and Navy of the United States, but such influential people as
Eric Johnston, James Davis, Harry Hopkins, Eleanor Roosevelt and others who have shown by their actions that they are staunch supporters of the objective of further strengthening the good will between the two greatest nations on earth. U.S.S.R. officials automatically assume places of honor on every committee.

It is further proposed that in every city where the Red Army Chorus appears a sponsoring committee be organized; such committee to include the Governor of the State, the Mayor of the particular city in question and other leading citizens whose standing in the local community would add prestige and weight to the undertaking.

It is further proposed that in such cities a welcoming committee headed by the Mayor of the city greet the Chorus upon its arrival and present them with the keys of the city and confer on them honorary citizenship of the city.

It is further proposed that in addition to the formation of such welcoming committees, etc., the appearance of the Chorus in any city would result in the planned promotion to designate that day, or days, as Red Army Day, or days, with the broad objective being to coordinate every civic and educational activity, culminating in the highest possible tribute to the achievements of the men and women of the armies of Russia.

TOUR PLAN

It is proposed that the tour of the Chorus open at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City for one week. At the opening concert, the general and local sponsors, including officials of the government, the city, highest ranking
available officers of the Army and Navy, would be guests of honor. An alternative to this suggestion would be to open the tour in Washington, D.C. with the same general set-up as outlined for the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. Following the opening concert, it is proposed that the tour be run approximately as follows:

Boston, Montreal, Toronto, Cleveland, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Chicago, Milwaukee, St Paul, Omaha, Kansas City, Denver, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, El Paso, San Antonio, Dallas, Houston, New Orleans, Memphis, St Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Washington, Philadelphia.

In the majority of cities mentioned, two, three or four performances would be feasible. In every case, the general promotional and organizational procedure would be followed with the exception of Canada where the organizational set-up would be essentially the same as for America; i.e. sponsors to include the Ambassador of Great Britain, Governor General of Canada, the heads of the Army, Navy, etc.

TRANSPORTATION

It is believed certain that it will be possible to travel the Red Army Chorus in America and Canada by a special train designated Red Army Chorus Special.

FINANCIAL RETURNS

All of the above mentioned cities have auditoriums in excess of 3000 capacity allowing possible grosses in excess of $8000.00 for each performance. Since the primary and sole objective of such a proposed good will tour is to cement cultural relationships between our two nations, any profit motive should be eliminated except as such monies accruing to the benefit of the Chorus can
be used as the U.S.S.R. sees fit. American management undertaking presentation of the Chorus automatically limits itself to the "out-of-pocket" promotion expenses plus a mutually agreeable percentage to compensate for time, effort and knowledge.

In conclusion, it is to be hoped that if the National Concert and Artists Corporation is privileged to lend its efforts in presenting the Red Army Chorus to the American public in as dignified and successful a manner as possible, the relationship between the Bureau of Fine Arts of the U.S.S.R. and the National Concert and Artists Corporation would be such that the tour of the Red Army Chorus can be regarded as a preliminary step for the presentation of Russian artists in America by the National Concert and Artists Corporation and of American artists in Russia by the Bureau of Fine Arts of the Russian government.

Submitted by: PAUL H STOEY
General Representative
National Concert and Artists Corp.
711 Fifth Avenue
New York City
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have just received a letter from Ella Winter, copy of which is enclosed. This is a splendid idea and I think it would be very helpful.

Are you familiar at all with the organization as proposed, and the character of the people who are behind it in a business way?

The language, "American management undertaking presentation of the Chorus automatically limits itself to the 'out-of-pocket' promotion expenses plus a mutually agreeable percentage to compensate for time, effort and knowledge", permits a pretty large leeway, which might come back to plague us unless the sponsors could safely rely on the character, standing and high-mindedness of such management. And even more important, perhaps, would be the executive business capacity which could, and would oversee it.

With victory, there has come the still more difficult struggle to win the peace. We feel desperately now the loss of the great man who piloted the ship through the war. With the immediate danger over, all of the more evil and petty considerations of national chauvinisms, prejudices, and the like, are rearing their ugly heads to threaten international cooperation on a global basis, which alone can project a reasonably secure peace.
Marjorie joins in kindest regards to you and all the family, and the hope that you are all well.

With assurances of my great respect and esteem, I am

Hastily yours,

JOSEPH E. DAVIES

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Hyde Park,
Dutchess County,
New York
Dear Mr. Davies,

To my disappointment, I just missed you in Washington so I'll have to communicate with you by mail. As you know, a number of people have been very anxious to start an interchange of music and ballet with the Soviet Union. The National Concert and Artists Bureau have now made a very handsome professional offer to the Red Army Chorus to come to the U.S. on a 16-week tour, all proceeds to go to the U.S.R. (over-and-above expenses and commission). I have spoken to Mr. Charles G. Ross, Mr. Benton and General Marshall about the project and the State Department expresses itself as extremely interested in any kind of cultural exchange between our two countries.

They cannot, of course, endorse the venture of any one private organization, but since this is not to be a "profit making venture," I wondered if you would agree to become a member of a committee, with Mrs. Roosevelt, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. Carter, (?) Mrs. Borden Harriman, Mr. Owen D. Young and others equally interested in a good will tour of the Red Army Chorus, a committee to welcome the Chorus when it comes? You know better than I how the Soviet Union likes and appreciates some kind of expression of official or semi-official endorsement or approval of any such plan.

I'm sending you the N.C.A.C.'s outline. My own role is merely that of a liaison man because I know both countries and because I think this kind of interchange now one of the best methods of bringing out the friendlier side of relations.

If you want to talk to me about it, would you wire or write me at home? 15 Elmwood Ave., Cambridge 38, Mass. I have no phone, alas, but I could phone you (Paul Smith 26F, Yes?) anytime you wished.

Yours very sincerely,

Ella Winter

It is proposed that the Red Army Chorus' good will tour of America, (signed) ELLA WINTER

P.S. Mukhina and Sophie Tolstoy were delighted with your messages.
NATIONAL CONCERT AND ARTISTS CORPORATION
711 Fifth Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

September 13, 1945

A PROPOSAL FOR A GOOD WILL TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES

BY THE RED ARMY CHORUS OF THE U.S.S.R.

The general proposal is for the Red Army Chorus to make a good will tour of the United States of America either during the spring of 1946 or the fall of 1946 depending upon the length of time that the chorus could be released from its activities in the U.S.S.R.

The broad objective of the tour would be to augment good will between the peoples of the United States and Russia and to acquaint the people of the United States not only with the current music of Russia but also to give them a visual idea at the same time of the high standards of the victorious Russian army. Since the idea of a tour of this kind would be primarily one of fostering the above mentioned objectives, the financial returns could be allocated to Russian Army Relief, the Russian Red Cross or any other Russian organization designated by the Russian government.

ORGANIZATION OBJECTIVES

It is proposed that the Red Army Chorus' good will tour of America if possible be at the direct invitation of the President of the United States, the chiefs of the staff of the Army and Navy of the
United States and that a permanent sponsoring committee be organized to include not only the heads of the government, the Army and Navy of the United States, but such influential people as Eric Johnston, James Davies, Harry Hopkins, Eleanor Roosevelt and others who have shown by their actions that they are staunch supporters of the objective of further strengthening the good will between the two greatest nations on earth. U.S.S.R. officials automatically assume places of honor on every committee as follows:

It is further proposed that in every city where the Red Army Chorus appears, a sponsoring committee be organized, such committee to include the Governor of the State, the Mayor of the particular city in question and other leading citizens whose standing in the local community would add prestige and weight to the undertaking.

It is further proposed that in such cities a welcoming committee headed by the Mayor of the city greet the Chorus upon its arrival and would be feasible. In every case, the general promotional and organizing present them with the keys of the city and confer on them honorary citizenship of the city.

The organizational set-up would be essentially the same as for America, i.e., sponsors to include the Ambassador of Great Britain, Governor of Canada, the heads of the Army, Navy, etc.

It is further proposed that in addition to the formation of such welcoming committees, etc., the appearance of the Chorus in any city would result in the planned promotion to designate that day, or days, Red Army Day, or days, with the broad objective being to coordinate Chorus in America and Canada by a special train designated Red Army every civic and educational activity, culminating in the highest Chorus Special possible tribute to the achievements of the men and women of the armies of Russia.

All of the above mentioned cities have auditoriums in excess of 5000 capacity allowing possible profit of $8000.00 for each performance. It is proposed that the tour of the Chorus open at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City for one week. At the opening concert, the general and local sponsors, including officials of the government,
the city, highest ranking available officers of the Army and Navy, would be guests of honor. An alternative to this suggestion would be to open the tour in Washington, D.C. with the same general set-up as outlined for the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. Following the opening concert, it is proposed that the tour be run approximately as follows:

Boston, Montreal, Toronto, Cleveland, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Omaha, Kansas City, Denver, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, El Paso, San Antonio; Dallas, Houston, New Orleans, Memphis, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Washington, Philadelphia.

In the majority of cities mentioned, two, three or four performances would be feasible. In every case, the general promotional and organizational procedure would be followed with the exception of Canada where the organizational set-up would be essentially the same as for America; i.e. sponsors to include the Ambassador of Great Britain, Governor General of Canada, the heads of the Army, Navy, etc.

TRANSPORTATION

It is believed certain that it will be possible to travel the Red Army Chorus in America and Canada by a special train designated Red Army Chorus Special.

FINANCIAL RETURNS

All of the above mentioned cities have auditoriums in excess of 3000 capacity allowing possible grosses in excess of $8000.00 for each performance. Since the primary and sole objective of such a proposed good will tour is to cement cultural relationships between our two nations,
any profit motive should be eliminated except as such moneys accruing to the benefit of the Chorus can be used as the U.S.S.R. sees fit. American management undertaking presentation of the Chorus automatically limits itself to the "out-of-pocket" promotion expenses plus a mutually agreeable percentage to compensate for time, effort and knowledge.

In conclusion, it is to be hoped that if the National Concert and Artists Corporation is privileged to lend its efforts in presenting the Red Army Chorus to the American public in as dignified and successful a manner as possible, the relationship between the Bureau of Fine Arts of the U.S.S.R. and the National Concert and Artists Corporation would be such that the tour of the Red Army Chorus can be regarded as a preliminary step for the presentation of Russian artists in America by the National Concert and Artists Corporation and of American artists in Russia by the Bureau of Fine Arts of the Russian government.

Submitted by: PAUL H. STOES
General Representative
National Concert and Artists Corp.,
711 Fifth Avenue
New York City