

April 14, 1986

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Dear 

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Since our discussion last Friday, April 11, 1986 covered several important matters, we thought it might be valuable to reduce to writing some of the topics which will require further action:

- 1) Enclosed is a copy of the letter of acceptance, for Ecce Homo by Georio Spaventa, on behalf of the Vatican, by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Pio Laghi, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio. Also, enclosed is our reply, dated March 26, 1986.
- 2) We had a most pleasant meeting with His Excellency on March 31, 1986. His representative, Father Bernard Yarrish will be in touch with you to arrange a mutually convenient time for the transfer of Ecce Homo from the agency to the Vatican. For the record, Father Yarrish can be reached at 202-333-7121 or 7122, and he is expecting your call.
- 3) His Excellency generously agreed that our gift, for the present, will be treated as an indefinite loan and that upon my death, title to legal ownership will automatically take place. We have advised our counsel, Robert H. Reinhart, Esq. of our pledge and he will work with his legal counter part at the Apostolic Nunciature to draw up the necessary language to reflect this agreement.
- 4) We are herewith requesting that our gift to the Agency of the Bronze Portrait of Vice President George Bush, and whatever other art objects we bequeath to the agency in the future, be treated in the same manner as described in point number 3 above. Apropos, would you please be prepared to designate someone on the legal staff of the agency, in the event, Robert H. Reinhart, Esq. may need to work with him or her.
- 5) We have submitted to you at our meeting last Friday, the names of two highly qualified Art Appraisers who can provide the agency

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with current Regional market values. This, along with Christies "International" view will give us a more balanced appraisal for price negotiations. As mentioned previously, this was the method used by the Smithsonian in their 1980 land mark acquisition of art works from our collection. Again, for the record, we have no financial ties whatsoever in either M. B. Odoroff or Chris Middendorf. Nor have we discussed any of the paintings etc. in the collection at the agency.

[] I have the strange feeling I may have forgotten something of our conversation which may be important; but if this be the case, I know you will bring it to my attention.

Finally, your predecessor [] as we both agree, did an outstanding job as Chairman. It is my feeling you will also and I look forward to working with you on projects of major importance to the agency as we get further into the future. You have my unqualified support.

All Best,

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Vincent Melzac

PS You are probably aware that where construction is involved the nationally accepted standard for expenditures for art work is from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the amount budgeted for construction, the $\frac{1}{2}$ being the absolute minimum.

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