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Kerr, John Hoare (1978-1984): Correspondence 59

Claiborne Pell

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November 17, 1978

Ms. Carolyn Payton
Director, The Peace Corps
805 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525

Dear Ms. Payton:

I understand my fellow Rhode Islander, John Hoare Kerr, Director of Education at the National Endowment for the Arts, has been talking with your associates at the Peace Corps about his desire to serve with you. I also understand that he has been interviewed for the position of Country Director for Korea.

As you know, the Endowment has adopted a retroactive 5-year and out plan for its top administrators somewhat similar to that in the Peace Corps. John has served with distinction for almost a decade at the National Endowment for the Arts. Certainly the talents and skills he has developed at UNICEF, in the Foreign Service, and at the Endowment, could serve the Peace Corps well. One of the programs Mr. Kerr has developed and administered has been a kind of Peace Corps in the arts to our schools and communities. He tells me he modeled it on your concept, some 8 years ago, a concept that would have artists join together for a part of their career to help others develop tools and skills they might not otherwise have.

I know you are concerned about finding the best people for your excellent efforts and I want to recommend John to you. He tells me he has long wanted to serve others through the Peace Corps. His resume shows he would be an excellent choice.

Any consideration you can offer in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

With warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claibonne Pell

Enclosure

RJ:CF