Draft letter for British Council:-

We are forwarding to you by ocean mail two complete sets, of ten discs each, of recordings processed in Calcutta from records originally made by the mobile recording unit of the Malaya Broadcasting Corporation. Full details of the origin and nature of these recordings are contained in the attached note.

These records were removed from Singapore by the last M.B.C. party to leave the island, on IIth February, 1942, as they were considered of sufficient value to justify an attempt to convey them to a place of safety. When the records reached Delhi, it was suggested by Mr. [illegible] Robertson, formerly on the staff of the M.B.C., that they should be sent to the Gramophone Company in Calcutta for processing; the original recordings were made on "Presto" acetate discs, and he considered it desirable that they should be put into a more permanent form, and that copies for distribution should be prepared. As there were no M.B.C. funds available, he enquired whether we would bear the cost of this work, which was of a certain urgency in view of the danger of the sole copy then existing being damaged or destroyed, and in view of the desirability of sending copies to England for safe-keeping.

It was accordingly decided that the work should be carried out at our expense in order to avoid any delay, and we recently received twelve complete sets of the records from the Gramophone Company. The master discs from which these copies were made are being retained for the present by the Gramophone Company. These records cannot of course be utilised by us here in the sphere of war propaganda, but their cultural and educational importance is considerable, and it was this consideration which weighed with us in the decision to have permanent recordings made as soon as possible. But it is a consideration which also makes it apparent that use might more advantageously be made of the records by the British Council than by ourselves, and accordingly we are enquiring whether the Council would be willing to take over the records and the responsibility for their distribution. Centres which are likely to be immediately interested in the records are the B.B.C., Cambridge University, and the Carnegie Institute. Two sets of the records have been sent to you, as it was thought that the Council might wish to make one set available to the B.B.C. without delay.

The total expense involved in having the records processed and twelve copies sent to us from Calcutta was Rs. 517/4 (£-.-.-.) Please let us know if you are agreable to taking over the records and bearing this charge.