ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 18, 1966

Dear Dr. Rubinstein:

It was a great pleasure for all of us to meet with you and Mrs. Rubinstein at lunch Monday and to make a start in the process of giving official recognition and honor to your magnificent contributions to the United States as well as to the whole world of music.

It was an equally great pleasure to learn from Gerry Wagner that you will be the soloist at the United Nations Concert next Fall. Your participation will assure the success of this project. We are particularly mindful that you will be making a special trip -- in the middle of your European tour -- to come to Washington. This is an extraordinary contribution for which we are grateful.

Mrs. Sisco and I, and many other officials of the Department, are looking forward to seeing you and Mrs. Rubinstein at the concert.

With warm regards to both you and Mrs. Rubinstein,

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Sisco

Joseph J. Sisco

Dr. Artur Rubinstein,
Drake Hotel,
440 Park Avenue,
New York, New York.

P.S. We hope to hear you play the Emperor Concerto next month.

March 2, 1966

Mr. Joseph J. Sisco
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Sisco,

Accept our belated thanks for a charming luncheon, and congratulations for your lovely new surroundings.

Unfortunately, I have had to change my mind about the concert which we planned to give in October. I found that my schedule in Europe, and for the entire year, is so tight that to fly to the United States just for that one concert would be too strenuous for me. I am sorry to disappoint you, but my doctor has dissuaded me, rather sternly.

I'm afraid I didn't quite understand your reference to "the process of my official recognition." Since thirty years the American public has showered upon me favors which I hardly deserve. Six universities, including Yale, and Brown, have bestowed honorary degrees upon me. I am the proud Citizen of Honor of the city of Philadelphia, and of Columbia, South Carolina. The former Mayor of New York presented to me, with high citations, the Medal of the city. And, in spite of my advanced age, my concerts all over America are constantly sold out. What more recognition can a man desire? Indeed, I am humbly grateful for the happiness which all that gives me, and which makes me so proud to be a citizen of this noble and generous country.

Sincerely,

Arthur Rubinstein

ar/chc