

United States Information Agency

ACTION MEMO

4 February 1992

TWO PAGE FAX

To: Harriet Elam
From: Rex Moser
Subject: Istanbul Biennial

New Museum co-curators Laura Trippi and Gary Sangster paid their long-delayed first visit to Arts America last Friday, January 31. We had a fruitful meeting and review all but a few of the 43 works they are proposing for the Biennial. The exhibition would consist of photographs, installations and prints by nine artists. They have promised dupes of the slides soon and we will DHL them to you immediately for your reaction and that of the Biennial organizers.

On the same day, we received your fax with Vasif Kortun's letter to Philip. We were surprised to learn in that letter that only 250 square meters was to be allocated to the U.S. exhibition. Per Philip's fax to me of November 25, I informed the curators that 350 square meters would be available and their selection takes this larger figure into account. Please clarify.

As expected, Friday's meeting generated lots of questions that need to be answered so that the curators can be as prepared as possible. Following are those questions which we hope you can elicit from organizers.

- What is the height of the space the exhibition will occupy?
- What kind of walls will be built between the columns to divide the space -- masonry, fabric, other? How high will they be erected?

What kind of artificial light and how many fixtures are available? If part of the space needs to be dark, can the skylights be masked?

When does the Biennial need the curators' request for walls and related equipment?

10:14:02

10:17

(10)

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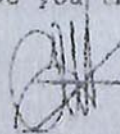

Please describe security at the Feshane museum. Will there be climate control? What kind of electricity is available at the museum?

What is the preferred length of the catalog essay for the Biennial catalog?

A significant number of the works to be exhibited contain text or captions that comment on the imagery. Will the Biennial fabricate object labels? Should they be bilingual? Since we want to include text panels to discuss each artist's work, would these be fabricated by the Biennial or the New Museum? (We expect that we, with your assistance, would be responsible for translations.)

What is the composition of the museum's floor? Can one of the installations be anchored (with screws) into the floor?

We also discussed a site visit by the curators to Istanbul. Philip had suggested a date in early March, but after the 6th, when you are presenting a performing arts group. The curators are holding the week of March 9 open. They think they will need 3-5 days. Would you check your schedule and that of the Biennial organizers, and suggest the best dates? How many days do you think will be required?

Clear:  REMcDowell  J. Sstirn

cc: CAO Ben Whitten, USIG Ankara