

additional storage space vs. stacking of crates. While considerable challenges remain to achieve the objective of further venues in Taiwan, recalling the exhibit at this juncture, for above reason, would be regrettable. Given your personal leadership in bringing the Mackay exhibit to Taiwan, you may be interested in calling ROM/Thorsell today to urge that ROM continue to adopt maximum flexibility and patience possible while we continue to work towards solutions with ROM staff/Shung Ye here on the ground.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Epp, Weldon -TAPEI -GR  
Sent: October 18, 2001 7:17 PM  
To: 'Dan Rahimi'  
Subject: Mackay Exhibit: Storage/Shipping  
Importance: High

Dan:

As you requested CTOT has Air Canada on standby should a decision be taken to ship the exhibit back to the ROM in the coming days (see below). I dropped by Shung Ye today to follow-up on previous days' conversations with both Chris Palmer and Yi-ting, and to look at proposed storage spaces together with both of them. Packing work is progressing, and will perhaps be completed as soon as end of day Saturday.

Based on our conversation several days ago I know that you share my views on keeping the bigger picture in view provided ROM's technical requirements for storage are met. I know Chris will be in touch with you tonight to provide his assessment of the storage situation. I of course can only offer a non-professional's perspective on that question, but for what it is worth here goes.

"Hallway" is not the best description for the secondary space Shung Ye is offering. It is an alcove offset from a hallway which runs between the exhibition space and the storage room where the rest of the exhibit would be stored. While the alcove cannot be locked, it only has one open face and can be partitioned off. Chris has suggested that the lockable crates could be positioned here. Climate control is exactly the same as provided to the exhibition space used for the exhibition; same as in the storage room. Chris' opinion, which I can corroborate, is that this space should not be misunderstood as a high-traffic through-way. There would be no question of the public having to step around crates; in fact the public would not know that crates were stored behind the partition.

That appears to leave one question - stacking of several of the crates. Chris has shared his views with us, and I'll leave it to him to discuss this aspect with you.

My conclusion after today's site visit is that the technical question of storage at Shung Ye can be resolved - at least until such time as a final assessment of Kaohsiung is possible and ROM and Taichung have had time to review the facility report that Taichung submitted today. This then brings us back to the conclusion we reached at the end of our conference call two weeks ago, namely that Shung Ye would store the exhibit while actively pursuing ways to address the ROM's technical concerns with either/both Kaohsiung and Taichung.

Not to get ahead of ourselves, but in tandem with our discussion of this possibility by phone Shung Ye has separately offered to pay the costs of bringing Chris down to Taichung to view the facility there, once packing is completed. By coincidence I will be in Taichung for unrelated meetings tomorrow, and will take the opportunity to stop by the museum while there.

In short, while CTOT is happy to have Air Canada Cargo on standby, we hope to assist ROM/Palmer in investigating other options before a decision to recall the exhibit is taken.

Regards,