

Sunday Oct 25, 1964.

Dear Excellency Ambassador Thors:

I am a close friend of Dr. Thorlaksson (we a fellow Minnesotans) Dr Thorlaksson suggested I drop you a letter regarding the following matter.

I have just completed arranging a tour for the National Basketball Team of Iceland to visit the U.S.A.

The group will arrive in New York on the afternoon of Sunday Dec 27, 1964.

Edward P.F. Eagan the President of People to People sports will make arrangements for the Iceland team to appear on the Ed Sullivan Show (audience introduction)

I have written his Honor Hannes Kjartansson, the Consul General in New York regard the tour of the National Basketball team and he can coordinate activities with Edward P.F Eagan.

The team is scheduled to play 3 games in the Washington D.C. area, they will be in Washington from Dec 29 Tuesday thru Monday Jan 4, they leave on the morning of Jan 5 for upper New York

The following is the completed U.S. Tour, they may make a side visit into Canada and play the Royal Military College at Kingston Ontario, I am still in correspondence regarding this small section of the trip

The itinerary is as follows as regards, opponents + terms.

DATE	OPPONENTS	PLACE	TERMS
Dec 27 Sun	Arrive New York via Icelandic Air Lines From Reykjavik		
Dec 28 Mon	Hofstra Univ	Long Island NY	\$350 plus 3 meals + overnight
Dec 30 Wed	Bolling Air Force Base	Washington DC	No guarantee 12 meals + 4 nights
Jan 2 Sat	Catholic Univ	Washington DC	\$250 plus 3 meals + overnight
Jan 4 Mon	Gallaudet College	Washington DC	\$300 plus 6 meals + 2 nights
Jan 5 Tue	Plattsburgh State U	Plattsburgh NY	\$350 plus 3 meals + overnight
Jan 6 Wed	Potsdam State U	Potsdam NY	\$350 plus 3 meals + overnight
Jan 7-10	(Canada)	Kingston Ontario	No guarantee 9 meals + 3 nights
Jan 11 Mon	St. Michaels College	Winooski VI	\$350 plus 3 meals + overnight
Jan 12 Tue	Plymouth State U	Plymouth N.H.	\$350 plus 3 meals + overnight
Jan 14 Thur	St. Anselms College	Manchester N.H.	\$350 plus 3 meals + overnight
Jan 16 Sat	Mass Institute of Technology	Cambridge Mass	\$350 plus 3 meals + overnight
Jan 17 Sun	Leave New York for Reykjavik via Icelandic Airlines		

By arranging for the team to stay overnight at the different colleges and receive meals, it not only cuts down on expenses, but more important it gives the visitors from Iceland an intimate relationships with their american friends and this of course is the objective of People to People:

Would it be possible for you to arrange for the Iceland team to meet President Johnson (or should we say Johnsson) at the White House. You might write Edward P.F. Eagan, President of People to People Sports, 30 Exchange Place, New York 5 New York and keep him advised regarding this, as he is most anxious to have the Iceland boys to visit the White House.

The Boston Celtics Professional basketball team thru Mr. Bill Makney a friend of mine, has invited the Iceland team to be their guests on Jan 15 *when?* The Celtics play Baltimore at the Boston Gardens, Mass Institute of Technology players will also be guests of the Celtics. (Iceland plays Mass Inst of Technology on the following evening at nearby Cambridges.)

The Iceland players thru a singing quartette and will sing songs of Iceland for the attendants at the school they visit.

Bogi Thorsteinsson the President of the Icelandic Basketball Federation is also showing coloured slides of Iceland.

Through Dr. Thorlaksson and Bob King at the Icelandic Airlines, we are trying to get the Icelandic Tourist Bureau to pick up four air fares in return for Bogi showing the coloured slides of Iceland to the students and at Business mens Luncheons, with the compliments of the Icelandic Tourist Bureau.

If we can get a little cooperation from the Tourist bureau the entire trip will be completely self supporting.

Two of the teams the Icelanders are playing in Washington are Catholic U and Gallaudet College

The 3rd opponent is the Bolling Air Force Base. It would mean a lot to the success of the Icelanders trip to Washington if you could invite the coach and President of each school plus the athletic officer and the corresponding officer of each of these groups to luncheon at the Embassy. These are the individuals concerned: Ed LaFond athletic Director and the President of Catholic U (don't know his name) Dr Peter Wisher athletic Director of Gallaudet College and the President of Gallaudet College (name unknown to me) also Major Roy Johnsons chief of Personnel Services Division and Colonel Frank E Marek the Base Commander.

The Iceland group 14 in number will be treated by these teams and it would be a good thing, if you had a chance to know them better. They would appreciate having lunch with you and getting to know you. They are and will go out of their way to show the Iceland boys warm and friendly hospitality.

I have also written Bogi Thorsteinsson to drop you a line with a list of the Iceland group.

Lets keep in close touch on this

Sincerely – Respectfully

Frank Walsh

P.S. Dr. Thorlaksson tells me the Irish were some of the earliest visitors to Iceland in which case we may be distantly related. F