

MARGOT GAYLE 235 EAST 87TH STREET, 6C / NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10128 / (212) 369-6004

Mr. Charles Millard
Economic Development Corporation
110 Williams Street
New York, NY 10038

June 24, 1997

Re: Retain existing building
at 2 Columbus Circle

Dear Charles:

I'm writing you for the second time because I've thought a lot about the values at stake in retaining the unusual historic building at 2 Columbus Circle. The conviction grows on me that we owe it to the city to keep this unusual building in tact and in the hands of a cultural organization. I am not a special pleader for the Dahesh Museum, but it does seem to present a fortunate coincidence of a cultural buyer with money in hand, eager to secure space for expansion and warmly disposed toward this quixotic structure.

As I wrote you in my letter of May 16. "Even if the sale of this building to a developer might bring more money into city coffers than its sale to the Dahesh Museum, there are long term considerations that go beyond dollars and cents."


It is with that thought in mind that I remind you of the felicity brought to this important location by the existing building at 2 Columbus Circle.

Its neighbor at the southwest corner of Central Park is the most touching war memorial in Manhattan. At its base are stone figures relating to the loss of 260 Americans when the Battleship Maine exploded in Havana Harbor in 1898.

The imposing granite Columbus monument rises some 40 feet in the circle with the marble statue of Columbus at its top, embodying the pride of Italian-Americans. Recognizing its historical significance, the Columbus Citizens Foundation raised \$275,000 to restore it just eight years ago.

Let us not just stand by and see these beloved New York memorials diminished by some overpowering skyscraper.

With warm personal wishes, sincerely yours,


Margot Gayle