



**GUARDIA SVIZZERA
PONTIFICIA**

COMANDO

N.

Città del Vaticano, January 12, 1989

Dear President,

Please allow me to take up a little of your time to introduce to you the "Philharmonica of Canobbio-Lugano". This is a non-professional musical band which was the first of its kind to perform before His Holiness Pope John Paul II - in the Consistorial Room of the Vatican Palace (Pentecost 1986). It also provides music for many civic and socio-political occasions both at home and abroad.

During 1989 (June 5 - June 11) the Philharmonica will be touring the east coast of the United States. I myself am an honorary member, and will be accompanying the band during the U.S. tour. Also accompanying the Philharmonica will be members of the Swiss Regional Government for Lugano.

Mr. Faust Meraldi, Professor of Science at the Goddard Space Flight Center at Green Belt, MD 20781, has suggested that the members of the Philharmonica visit the section of the Center which is open to the public. He has also kindly offered to give them a conducted tour.

I understand that it is necessary to obtain the permission of the Department of State before visiting the Center. Accordingly I would be very grateful if you could kindly grant us this permission, and also for Professor Meraldi to conduct the tour. I myself am responsible for the Philharmonica group and can vouch for the integrity of each individual member.

I wish to express my sincere thanks in advance for your kindness in considering my request, and I look forward to a favorable response - thus enabling a group from one of the smallest democratic nations in the world to visit this important Center in one of the greatest!

With warmest regards,

Respectfully yours,

Colonel R. Buchs
Commander of the Swiss Guards

The President
Department of State U.S.A.
Washington, DC