7 Lennox Street, Edinburgh, EH4 1QB, Great Britain.

Raffles Hotel, 1, Beach Road, Singapore.

Friday 1 May 1998

Dear Ms Cheu,

I have recently returned from a leisurely ten month tour of the Far East, and I am writing to thank you for a very pleasant stay at your hotel on the nights of the fourteenth and fifteenth of August. This was my first visit to the legendary Raffles, and I must say that it lived up to all expectations. Rarely does one find such excellent service and surroundings, even in first class hotels. My suite was most comfortable and tastefully decorated. Please thank my valet, Peter, for his polite and efficient service.

I was most impressed with the Grill Restaurant. Again, the service was excellent, and the fare superb. The manager was most helpful and impressively attentive. The highlight of my stay was Chako's jazz band playing in the Billiard Room. I am a great jazz enthusiast, and this trio was one of the very best that I have heard. It is so rare these days to find quality jazz in hotels. Please thank the musicians on my behalf.

The mark of a good hotel is, for me, the quality of its concierge. Your staff were most helpful. Indeed they rival such legendary service as that found at Claridge's in London and the George V in Paris.

I would like to thank your guest relations manager, Leslie Danker, for his many fascinating stories of the hotel. It was a pleasure to talk to him and I very much appreciated his gift of champagne.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend your food and drink festival in November, which is a great shame since Joel Robuchon is my favourite of all the Michelin chefs. I do look forward, however, to returing to Raffles in the future, perhaps for the next festival. Do keep me informed.

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency, The Count of Siena.