

29, Egmont Place,
Kemp Town,
Brighton 7.

2/32

14th April 1967.

Dear Hein,

How are you these days? I trust that Mr Morioka and Mr. van Swieten de Blom are well.

I thought you would like to know about two events coming in the Kendo year. You may remember that we hoped to go to Sweden in August. Well this has unfortunately fallen through due to booking difficulties. Mr Sanders still intends to go ahead with the Öland camp but the English contingent cannot go this year. (We shall definitely go to Öland next year). As an alternative I have arranged for a largish party of us to go to Brussels on 11th August (Friday) and stay at the Yama Arashi dojo until the following Sunday - 14th August. Some of us will then return to England, the rest will go on to Wiesbaden and visit Mr Riemann and Mr Wischnewski, nidan, and stay there until the following Sunday, 20th August, when they return home. This time the training schedules will be those of summer training and my montei will sleep in the dojos and start training at 5 AM. each day — and Mr Osaki and I will see this occurs, I can assure you. Training will be mainly early morning and mid morning leaving the afternoons free. We shall also have kata training.

If you would like to join either Mr Sanders in Öland or us in Brussels and Wiesbaden, you are all most welcome.

In June, the 10th to be precise — a Saturday — the Nenshiki Kendo Dojo London is holding its inauguration celebration under the president of the club, Sir Frank Bowden. We hope the Japanese Minister in London will attend along with many important guests. The Kendo will take the form of a tournament for all ranks of Kendo-ka divided as follows:-

- i. Children - Aged 6 - 11.
- ii. Children - Aged 12 - 15
- iii. Adults - Below 1st dan
- iv. Yūdansa - 1st dan - 3rd dan.

After this will come a Red Camp v. White Camp Team Match for five men teams to be selected on the evening. All awards will be made after each section by Lady Bowden. Mr Osaki and I will show the Nihon Kendo no-kata and Iai-jutsu.

We would very much like the Nederlandse Kendo Renmei to send representatives to attend this important meeting — and take part if you wish. One object in organising this event, besides the primary one, is to demonstrate

that the European Kendō Renmei is well able to show proper Kendō and that we are serious Kendōka. I am sure that Mr Morioka will appreciate the wisdom of this, particularly in this year of the foundation of the International Kendō Renmei.

We hope that seven yūdansa will take part in the senior division. These may include the three sandan over here, Mr Watanabe, Mr Osaki, and myself.

✗ Returning to the European Kendō Renmei I can report to you that the newly contacted Swiss Kendō group centred on Geneva are to have talks with me late this month at the Nervski Dōjō. Mr Watanabe Susumu, sandan, leaves here in July for Geneva to take up an appointment there with U.N.E.S.C.O. so that will be of the greatest value for their future development! I have also had a letter from Casablanca, Morocco, expressing their real interest in European Kendō.

✗ I am expecting to learn shortly if the Shah of Persia will accept the Presidency of the E.K.R. by way of Friedhelm Döckendorff. He has many contacts in the Iranian Embassy in Germany. I sincerely hope he does accept and before October because this tremendous news would be an enormous moral advantage to us in international relations! Should we be successful we shall approach Prince Bertil of Sweden to become a Vice-President. Robert von Sandor knows the Prince well. Have you any suggestions for other suitable Vice-Presidents? We need prominent people connected with:-

- a. Commerce. - especially shipping and property.
- b. The International Olympic Committee
- c. The Japanese European community.
- d. Culture.
- e. ?

As soon as we have the go-ahead I think the leading members of each Renmei should consult on further action to strengthen and consolidate Kendō all over Europe. Robert von Sandor has some proposals, I believe, and he will initiate any moves in his capacity of Chairman. I think we are really well served by all the prominent members of the Renmei, don't you? (I don't include myself in that remark - I am most inefficient really!!!).

Please give my sincere regards to Mr Morioka. Tell him that I hope we shall soon be able to meet again and perhaps this time I can have the pleasure of training under him.

Yours as ever,

Roald.