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Oct. 25, 1979

Allen Kaufman
P.O. Box 15
Whitestone, New York
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Dear Mr. Kaufman:

Upon my return home from San Diego, where I attended a seminar that began the same day I left Mexico, I was pleased to discover your very encouraging letter regarding Kenny Fong among my accumulated mail.

As stated in my previous letter, it is my hope that chess lessons with Julio Kaplan on a sustaining once-a-week basis can be arranged through the American Chess Foundation.

However, a splendid opportunity for Kenny to accelerate his progress under professional tutelage was presented in Mexico, which, I believe, also merits enthusiastic approval and support. So impressed was the Yugoslav boy's coach, who happens to be president of the largest chess club in Belgrade, with Kenny's natural abilities following a tense, fourth round draw against his player that he extended an invitation for Kenny to study chess under Yugoslav trainers at his club's expense. His respect for Kenny's talent grew with successive rounds and as we came to know one another better during the course of the tournament. As it now stands, if Kenny and a companion can travel to Yugoslavia, they will be made personal house guests for the length of their stay. Transportation costs from the American Chess Foundation would make such a trip feasible and allow Kenny to avail himself of an offer few players are likely ever to have received.

Kenny's family situation is typically oriental, meaning that he has had to pay his own way in chess, including his entry fees to local tournaments, and has had to rely upon his winnings to cover the expense of most of his books and equipment. At 13, he earns income toward a higher education by working at his parents' flower shop, and they are hardly of a mind or in a position to finance a non-vocational career for their son. In fact, Kenny's chess lessons up to this point (since he was eight) have been given without charge, else he would not have been able to afford them.

I am enclosing some newspaper clips describing Kenny's exploits in Mexico and a chess column by his teacher containing the results of the championship and Kenny's best game, with his own notes.

Thank you for your interest in Kenny's future and for your good works on behalf of American chess.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Pellerin