



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Home address

101, Airedale Road,
Sheffield S6 4AW.

29th June 1982

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Mr. Kok Khen Tan, B Eng., M Eng.

Dear sir/madam,

I have known Mr. Tan for a number of years and as a long serving member of Sheffield University Council and Court of Governors I have been in a position to observe his progress over a long period of time.

As a student, he was considered by the academic body to be exemplary perhaps because he was extremely bright and intelligent, and willing to apply his mind to his studies. They enjoyed working with him and this combined to make his time with us not only pleasant but very successful.

He is a very responsible young man and has not allowed his success to set him apart from his fellow man and he has been active in many fields to help the less fortunate of his fellow students.

Last year he was elected to the Presidency of the Union of Students, a post much sought after and considered the highest obtainable by a student.

It is a post which carries great responsibilities and these Mr. Tan has discharged with remarkable ability and we, the governing body, owe him our thanks and our gratitude.

He took up office at the most difficult time in the University's history and his wise and firm control of students, whilst retaining their respect and friendship, has helped in no small way to make our University regarded as one of the best administered in the country.

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SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Re: Mr. Kok Khen Tan
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Continued.....

Had I a post to offer suitable to Mr. Tan's abilities, I would offer it to him at once. He has apart from his qualifications academically those other qualities so necessary in business or industry, (indeed in any occupation) his honesty and integrity are beyond question, he is friendly without being fulsome and above all he has the ability to handle staff and workpeople, and to get things done his way without creating antagonism.

My term as "Lord Mayor of Sheffield" coincided with Mr. Tan's term as "President of the Union" which necessitated our working together a great deal; this can prove difficult for both. I shall be forever grateful that "my" President was Mr. Tan, he was of great help and support and carried out all I asked of him with great dignity and charm.

Others will testify to his academic ability to fill the post for which he applies, those other qualities of character and ability I can assure you he has in abundance and his quiet manner often covers his firmness of character.

Should you be fortunate enough to engage him I believe he will give you his best and will serve you with distinction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Enid Anne Hattersley (Cllr)".

Councillor Enid Anne Hattersley,
Lord Mayor of the City of Sheffield 1981 - 1982

Vice-Chancellor
PROFESSOR G. D. SIMS
O.B.E., M.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc., F.Eng., F.I.E.E., F.I.E.R.E., F.C.G.I.
Telephone: (0742) 78555
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THE UNIVERSITY
SHEFFIELD
S10 2TN

1 July 1982.

To whom it may concern

Mr. K.K. Tan

Mr. Tan has been both a successful undergraduate and postgraduate student in the University of Sheffield. He is a man of wide intellectual interests and has a keen quick thinking mind. Those who have taught him consider that his examination results markedly underestimate his real abilities, but he has matured impressively during his time in Sheffield and is an able leader with a strong sense of fairmindedness and justice. In this context I have seen him take the chair at large and difficult meetings with a degree of confidence and maturity of judgement rare in someone of his years.

The Sheffield Union of Students which organises a wide range of social, cultural and athletic student activities has been fortunate to have had Mr. Tan as President during the last year. It has been a period when considerable changes were occurring in attitudes towards education in Britain and both the staff and students of the University owe much to Mr. Tan for the restraining hand which he has exercised at a time when the equilibrium of the University, which has enjoyed generally excellent staff-student relationships, could have been seriously disturbed.

In short I can say that I have enjoyed working with Mr. Tan during his year of Presidency of the Union of Students and have respected both his determination and his integrity of purpose.

I believe that any future employer would be fortunate indeed to have a man of such wide ability on his staff.

G.D. Sims,
Vice-Chancellor.



University of Sheffield

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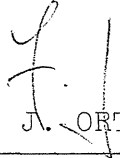
25 June, 1982

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

MR. K. K. TAN

Mr. Tan has been a student of the University from 1974 until the present day. He took a B.Eng. degree from 1974 to 1977; a Master's degree in Engineering from 1977-1980 and has since that date been registered as part-time M.Phil. student in the Department of Sociological Studies. During the current session he has been President of the Union of Students. He has unfortunately, for personal reasons, had to return to Malaysia before completing a higher degree.

I have known Mr. Tan well during his year as President. He has been able to control large student meetings with a firmness of hand which is to be commended in a period when many Union Officers are dominated by their more extreme elements. He has stood by his principles but has yet been able to negotiate sensibly with the University authorities. Having undertaken the negotiations he has been able to carry back what he has agreed to the Students' Union and obtain their support. He is therefore a person of determination but able to see the point of view of the other side.


F. J. ORTON

