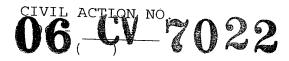
ROBERT BURCH, doing business as ROBERT BURCH COMMUNICATIONS,

Plaintiff,

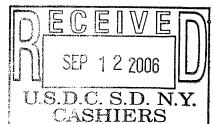
- vs. -

THOMAS NYARKO, doing business as BLACK STAR TRAVEL AND TOURS,

Defendant.



COMPLAINT



Plaintiff, Robert Burch d/b/a Robert Burch Communications, by and through his undersigned counsel, for his complaint against Thomas Nyarko d/b/a Black Star Travel and Tours, states as follows:

Jurisdiction and Venue

- 1. This is an action for copyright infringement arising under the Copyright Act of 1976, as amended, 17 U.S.C.A. §§101 et seq.
- This court has jurisdiction of the action by virtue of 28 U.S.C.A. §§1331 and 1338.
- 3. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C.A. §§1391(b) and 1400(a) because the claims arose within this district and each of the defendants reside and are found within this district.

- Plaintiff Robert Burch is an individual doing business Robert Burch Communications. as He is professional a photographer residing at 2725 St-Joseph Boulevard, Lachine, Quebec.
- 5. Defendant Thomas Nyarko is an individual doing business as Black Star Travel and Tours or Black Star Tours at 3832 White Plains Road, Bronx, New York ("Black Star"). Black Star is a travel agency.

Count One: Direct Copyright Infringement

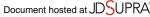
- 6. Mr. Burch realleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 5 of the Complaint.
- 7. Mr. Burch's professional photography portfolio features, among its wide range of subjects, an unusual selection of photograph of people, places and things in exotic, hard-to-getto locations such as the Ivory Coast in Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, the Serengeti, and West Africa.
- 8. As part of his extensive work as a travel photographer, Mr. Burch is involved with the tourist boards of several West African states pursuing the development of Western tourism in their countries.
- 9. His professional Internet website, http://www.burchcom.com, features a wide array of photographs

taken on his world travels atp://www.nspiedenere/kpennsedel-856487a-c2c9-4575-8743-6eac495aa9 and, in some cases, personal risk.

- 10. The website also features copyright notices as well as instructions and prices for those interested in licensing his work for their own use.
- 11. Attached to the Complaint as Exhibit A, and incorporated herein by reference, are true copies of copyrighted photographs. Each photograph attached to Exhibit A contains material wholly original with Mr. Burch and is copyrightable under the Copyright Act.
- 12. Mr. Burch has copyrighted each photograph in full compliance with the Copyright Act. A copy of the Certificates of Registration for the photographs in Exhibit A is attached as Exhibit B.
- 13. At all times relevant herein, Mr. Burch has been and still is the owner of the exclusive rights to reproduce and distribute, and to authorize the reproduction and distribution of the photographs in Exhibit A.
- 14. On the morning of June 12, 2006, while viewing a website related to events in Ghana, Mr. Burch happened to see a news story about a photographer who was sent to the World Cup tournament in Germany to report on Ghana's team and its progress during the World Cup matches. This news story acknowledged various benefactors that made the trip possible for

photographer. Among those named/www.scr.a.B.l.parkscun&tracker.Eputes5c4076-c9B+55nx43-6eac495aa98b New York and its director Mr. Thomas Nyarko.

- 15. The news story provided a link to the Black Star Tours Because Mr. Burch is involved with tourism-related website. endeavors in Ghana, he was curious to see who these people are and what they offer, and followed the link to Black Star Tours' website, which was then found at http://www.blackstartours.com.
- 16. Mr. Burch was surprised to discover three of his photographs being used on the very first page of the website as part of a changing photo montage set to music. A copy of a screen shot of that web page is attached hereto as Exhibit C.
- 17. Upon further investigation of the inside pages of the website, he found one of these images used again as a smaller element, plus a fourth photo that had been altered without permission. Copies of screen shots of those web pages attached hereto as Exhibit D.
- 18. Mr. Burch decided to contact Black Star Tours and inquire as to why his images were being used without permission.
- 19. On or about June 12, 2006, Mr. Burch made his first telephone call to Black Star, finally reaching him the following day, June 13, 2006.
- 20. The conversation between Mr. Burch and Mr. began on a cordial note, with Mr. Burch informing Mr. Nyarko that his photographs require a negotiated license for the already made by Black Star Tours, plus a license for continued usage. At this



point Mr. Nyarko became verympiagitated/poandmebeganspx/11595197426eac495aa98b language, including a number of expletives, and concluded with the admonishment to "never call [his] office again."

- 21. Mr. Burch then prepared an invoice setting forth the full amount of actual fees that Black Star Tours would have had to pay if it had used the services of one of plaintiff's online authorized agents to purchase licensing rights to his images. These rights are determined by the actual usage, placement on the website, duration of use, size of image and other factors. A monthly charge was determined for the six months of usage that Mr. Burch's investigation revealed, based on the dates and tames on which the website code was uploaded, was the measure of time that three of the images were used, and three months of usage for the other two images (one of them being a smaller version of the previous three). An additional charge was made for the alteration of one image without consent. A copy of that invoice is attached hereto as Exhibit E.
- 22. On June 15, 2006, Mr. Burch then sent a Certified Mail envelope to Mr. Nyarko at the Bronx address from the U.S. Post Office at Champlain, NY. It arrived on June 17 at 12:17 pm. At that time there was no one to accept the envelope so a notice was left that it could be retrieved at the local post office. On July 5 it was still unclaimed and subsequently returned to Mr. Burch, the sender. This envelope contained Mr. Burch's initial

invoice along with printouts to the printouts of the compages authorized online agent.

- 23. On July 1, 2006, Mr. Burch decided to once again view the website of Black Star Tours. On that date he was able to confirm that all of his photographs were still there and being used without permission.
- 24. Because, as of July 1, this usage constituted an additional month of usage, the initial invoice was revised to include additional charges. A true copy of the revised invoice is attached hereto as Exhibit F.
- 25. On July 11, 2006, Mr. Burch sent the revised invoice by Registered Mail from Canada and by regular mail at the same time. An attempt was made to deliver the envelope to the offices of Black Star Tours on July 14, 2006 but delivery was refused and subsequently the envelope containing this second attempt to notify Mr. Nyarko was returned to Mr. Burch.
 - 26. The first-class letter was not returned, however.
- 27. On July 14, 2006, Mr. Burch was able to discover the facsimile number for Black Star Tours. He therefore sent a facsimile of the revised invoice to this fax number. A printout from Mr. Burch's fax machine indicated that the fax did go through. Later the same evening he received a return fax from Black Star Tours requesting that he send it again because a portion was not legible. On July 15, 2006, Mr. Burch re-sent

his invoice by fax to the office praction of the office of again, his machine indicated that it had been received.

- 28. On July 15, 2006, the Black Star Tours website went offline, evidently because of defendant's failure to renew his domain name. Upon information and belief, Black Star Tours remains in business.
- 29. Defendant has refused to respond to any of the foregoing communications transmitted by Mr. Burch.
- 30. Upon information and belief, since at least January of 2006, Mr. Nyarko has from time to time acquired possession of Mr. Burch's photographs from the Internet and has duplicated the photographs, or has otherwise acquired unlawfully reproduced and utilized them to promote his business.
- 31. Mr. Burch has never authorized Mr. Nyarko to copy or duplicate any of his photographs or to utilize his photographs to promote his business.
- 32. Mr. Nyarko's acts, as alleged herein, are infringements of Mr. Burch's copyrights.
- 33. Mr. Nyarko has committed all of the aforesaid acts of infringement deliberately and willfully.
- 34. Mr. Nyarko has continued to infringe Mr. copyrights, and unless permanently enjoined by order of this Court, will continue to infringe Mr. Burch's copyrights, causing Mr. Burch irreparable harm.

35. Mr. Burch has sustained, insufficient continue to sustain, substantial injuries, loss and damage to his exclusive rights under the copyright laws regarding the photographs in Exhibit A, and Mr. Burch has sustained and will continue to sustain damages from the loss of value of the exclusive rights thereunder by reason of Mr. Nyarko's conduct.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Mr. Burch prays for judgment as follows:

- 1. That Mr. Nyarko be permanently enjoined from directly or indirectly:
 - (a) duplicating, manufacturing, copying or in any way utilizing, on the Internet or otherwise, any copyrighted photograph of which Mr. Burch is the copyright registrant, assignee or exclusive licensee;
 - (b) in any manner infringing or contributing to or participating in the infringement by others of any of Mr. Burch's copyrights in photographs.
- 2. That Mr. Nyarko be required to deliver to Mr. Burch all materials, including electronic media and any printed brochures or other materials, utilizing Mr. Burch's copyrighted photographs, in any form, and all equipment used

photographs, that are in his possession, held for delivery to them or under his control, as are herein alleged to infringe any of Mr. Burch's copyrights. At the time of delivery, Mr. Nyarko each must provide Mr. Burch with a sworn affidavit, signed before a notary public and two witnesses, stating that all unauthorized copies of Mr. Burch's copyrighted photographs, in any form, and all copies or printed or other materials utilizing copies of Mr. Burch's copyrighted photographs, that are in his possession, held for delivery to them or under his control, are being delivered to Mr. Burch.

- 3. Mr. Nyarko be required to pay to Mr. Burch statutory up to \$30,000 for each of of his infringements with respect to each copyright. If the Court finds that any infringement was committed willfully, Mr. Burch prays for statutory damages of up to \$150,000 for each copyright for all willful infringements with respect to that photograph.
- 4. That Mr. Burch recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs of the suit incurred herein.
- 5. That Mr. Burch have such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

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Ronald D. Coleman (RC 3875)

885 Third Avenue, Suite 3040

New York, NY 10022

212-308-5858

212-486-0462 facsimile

Dated: August 30, 2006

New York, New York

t/documentViewer.aspx?fid=8f5c487a-c9c9-4575-8743-6eac495aa98b http://www.jdsupra.co

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Stock Photography

Media Category: Web Advertiing

Price Calculator: Select the options below that best fit your usage.

Size: Pop-Up up to 400 x 500pm

Number of Placements: Under 5 placements

Duration:

Usage Considerations:

Geographic Distribution: Wolking

Price in USD: \$2,000,70

Start Date: 31 ~ January

Industry Useage: Havel & Toursm

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Geographic Distribution: Wordwids

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\$ 5005 \$ Start Date: 81 V January

Industry Useage: Mayel& Tourism

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114642: National Theatre - Accra, Ghana

Logged-in as Robert Burch Enlarged comp view

Description:

The National Theatre in Accra, the capital of Ghans · West

Africa.

http://www.jdsupra.com/p

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Stock Photography

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Geographic Distribution: Workwise

Price in USD: \$1,000.35

Start Date: 27 V Am

Industry Useage: Travel & Loanson

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Description:

The Independence Arch monument at night, in Accra, the capital of Ghana - West Africa.

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114643: Independence Arch - Ghana

Logged-in as Robert Burch Enlarged comp siew

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115830: Ashanti Woodcarvings - Ghana

Logged-in as Robert Burch Enlarged comp view

Traditional woodcarvers at work in the village of Ahwiaa, known for the fine quality of royal stools (thrones), walking sticks and figurines. Ahwiaa in the Ashanti Region of Ghana, West Africa.

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

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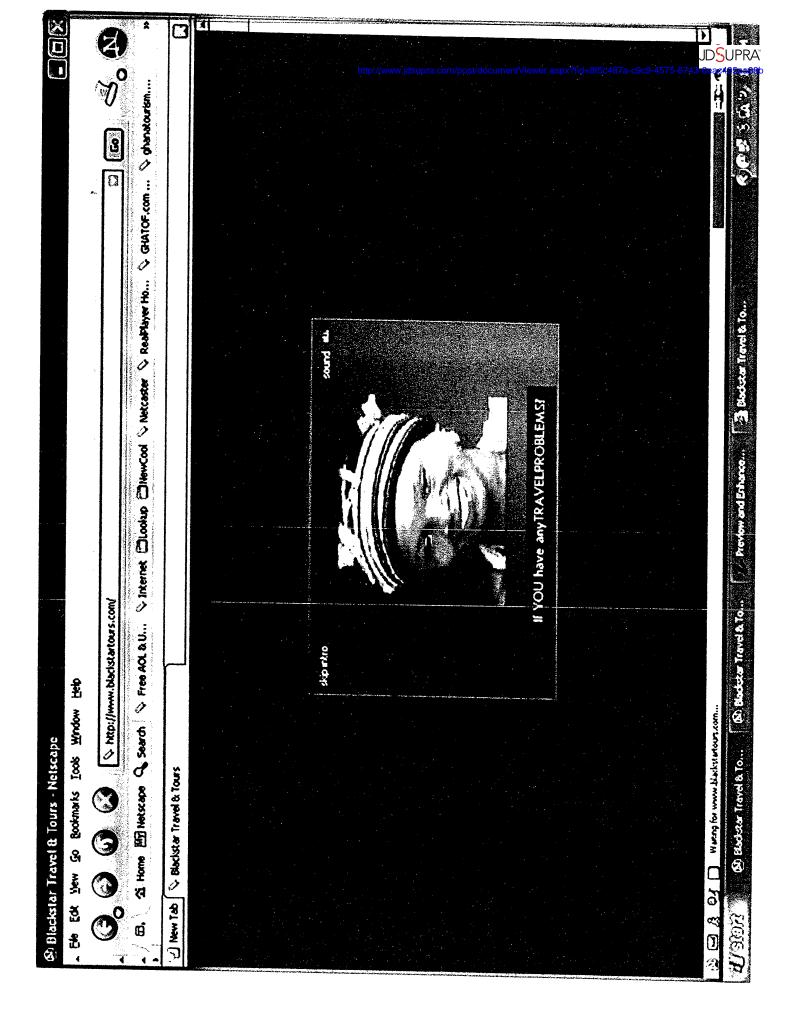
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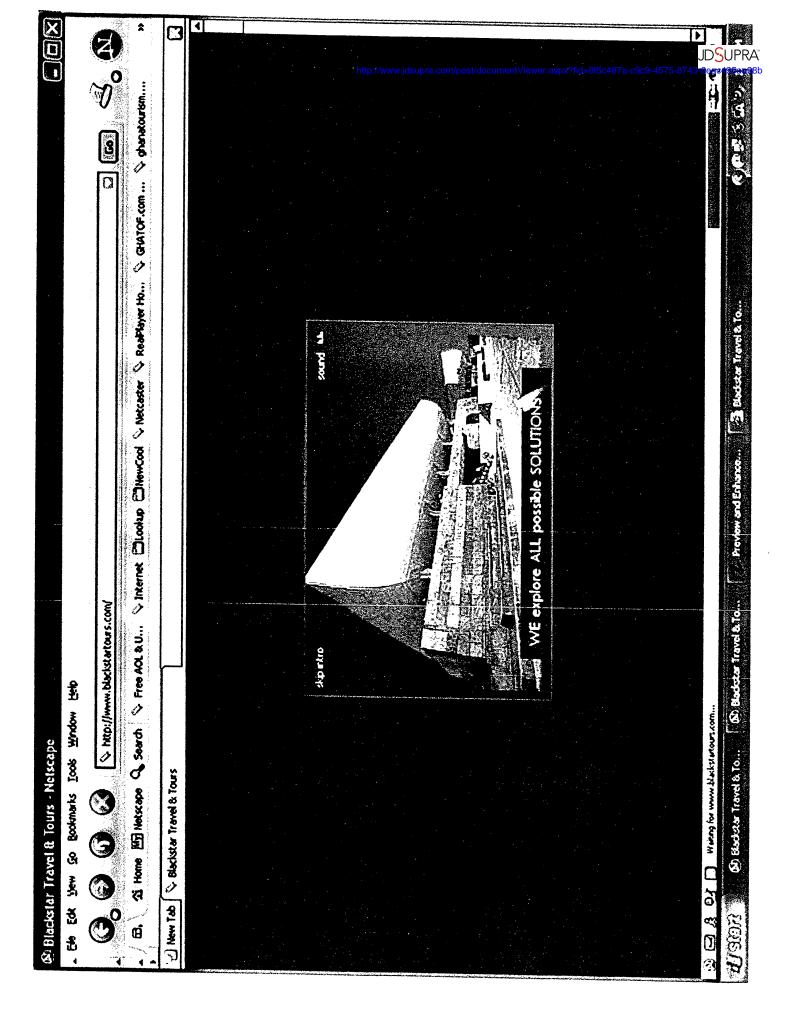
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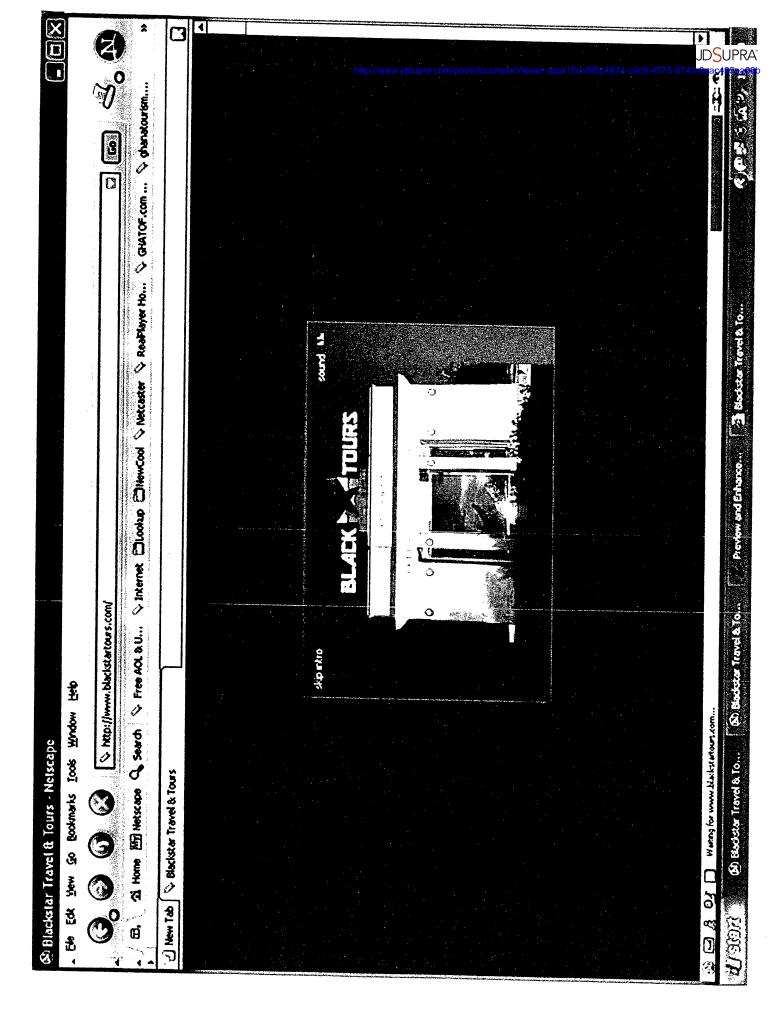
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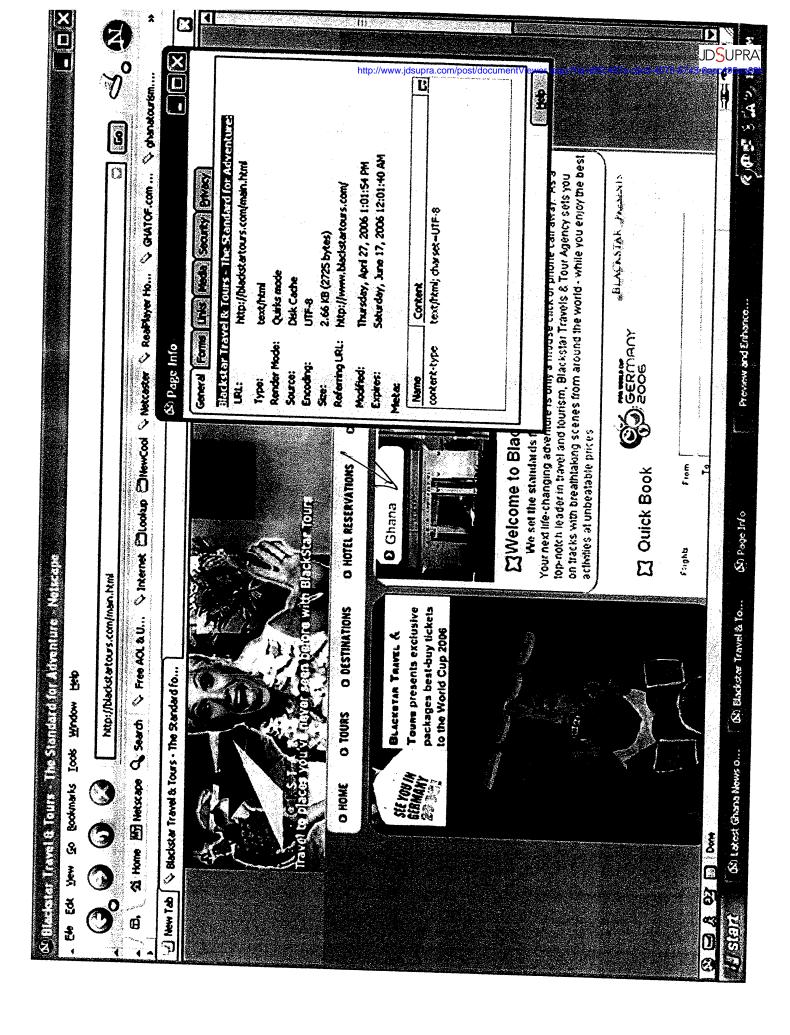
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11111111111111111111111111111111111111	sitests that registration has been made for the work identified below. The information on this certificate has been made a part of the Copyright Office records.
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Robert Burch Communications

lnternet: www.burchcom.com

Tel: (718) 515-5352 Fax: (718) 515-3132 Bronx, New York 10467 3832 White Plains Road Black Star Tours Mr. Thomas Nyarko

INAOICE #1003 - June 15, 2006

Website: www.blackstartours.com Re: Licensing Fees for Unauthorized Usage of Copyrighted Photos for Advertising Purposes on

They have been used for the months specified without permission or payment of Licensing Fees. The following photos are the Copyrighted Intellectual Property of Robert M. Burch.

Licensing fee of \$2,000.70 per month for 3 months (April to June, 2006) Used as a major element for a Tour Advertisement in an interior page Photo of Woodcarver in Ahwiaa – Ashanti Region, Ghana \$12,004.20 US Licensing fee of \$2,000.70 per month for 6 months (Jan. to June, 2006) Used as a major element in a "flash" montage - advertising - home page Photo of the National Theatre in Accra, Ghana SU 00.000, \$ The resulting modification is a gross distortion of the photograph – fee charged: This image has also been altered without photographer's permission. Licensing fee of \$2,000.70 per month for 6 months (January to June, 2006) \$12,004.20 US Used as a major element in a "flash" montage - advertising - home page Photo of Fanti Princess in Cape Coast - Ghana (no model release) \$ 3,001.05 US Licensing fee of \$1,000.35 per month for 3 months (April to June, 2006) Used again as a minor element in an interior page - advertising Photo of Independence Arch in Accra, Ghana \$12,004.20 US Licensing fee of \$2,000.70 per month for 6 months (January to June, 2006) Used as a major element in a "flash" montage - advertising - home page Photo of Independence Arch in Accra, Ghana

Agents in Chicago, IL – U.S.A. www.MyLoupe.com. Please refer to the enclosed sheets for reference. These licensing fees have been determined in accordance with the fees charged by one of my Licensed SU 37.210,34\$

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Copyright Office on August 7, 2000 - Registration Number VA-1-058-317. 1999 – Registration Number VA-993-954. The other three images were registered with the United States The Independence Arch image was registered with the United States Copyright Office on November 29,

instruction "not to call your office again", I am submitting this Invoice to you by USPS Registered Mail. remove my photographs from your website to avoid further charges, and in accordance with your Mr. Myarko: Due to your refusal to discuss a resolution to this situation with me by phone, or to agree to

in additional fees being assessed and force me to seek legal remedy. July 1, 2006. Non-payment of this invoice and continued unauthorized usage of my photographs will result The above fees are not negotiable. You may avoid additional fees by removing all of the images before

cc: Ronald D. Coleman - Intellectual Property Attorney

Please remit above fees to: Robert Burch Communications – at the address below.

This amount is due within 10 days of the Invoice Postmark. TOTAL:

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Internet: www.burchcom.com Robert Burch Communications

3832 White Plains Road Black Star Tours Mr. Thomas Nyarko

Tel: (718) 515-5352 Fax: (718) 515-3132 Bronx, New York 10467

INVOICE #1063 - June 15, 2006 (Revised July 1, 2006)

Website: www.blackstartours.com Re: Licensing Fees for Unauthorized Usage of Copyrighted Photos for Advertising Purposes on

The following photos are the Copyrighted Intellectual Property of Robert M. Burch.

They have been used for the months specified without permission or payment of Licensing Fees.

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Please remit above fees to: Robert Burch Communications - at the address below.

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