



S.P. Verma

अतिरिक्त निजी सचिव

कृषि राज्य मंत्री

भारत सरकार

नई दिल्ली-११०००१

~~xxxx~~ Private Secretary to
Minister of State for Agriculture
Government of India
New Delhi-110001

April 25, 1982

Dear Sir,

I was very happy to receive your kind letter of April 12 which arrived only yesterday. It looks as though the postal time between Manila and Delhi is as long as 10 to 12 days.

Although I spent 5 very fruitful years under your dynamic personality at close quarters yet I had known you and your great qualities for the last more than 25 years when I used to work with Dr. M.S. Randhawa in the ICAR. From the beginning I had the greatest admiration not only for your qualities of leadership but as a man who was not only concerned with his profession but was also a perfect human being. When in 1977 or so Balaji asked me whether I would like to join your staff I immediately jumped at the idea and thus started this very close association. This has not only given me greater insight as to problems we face in this country but also the human manner in which these could be solved at various levels without disturbing the laws of land.

Prior to joining you I had two Gurus in Dr. Randhawa and Prof. Lagerlof with whom I had worked for 4 years in Sweden and to this list I have now added your name also. I do not hesitate to say that while I consider that one's life is always to learn but one learns the maximum when one is convinced without being told to do so. This is a fact which I need not repeat

cont.....

I will always remember my few years' association with you which was highly rewarding and inspite of heavy pressure of work there was never a tense moment and things moved smoothly and quietly. Your very helpful nature always gave me the inspiration to help as much as I could to all those who came in contact with you or with me and this has not been a vain effort at all.

Although with your departure not only the country has lost a big scientist and a humanist yet I am sure with your total consideration for the advancement of not only Agriculture but the humanity which lives below the poverty line, this country will derive not less support than has been available to it hitherto although it will come indirectly. This is not mean gain indeed. My only wish is that after spending some years there you would still be available for service to this country because there are not very many leaders who could think the way that you do.

All is very fine at this end and they are in the process of shifting to the new flat in the first few days of May. I shall provide whatever assistance would be required.

The U.G.C. have sent a cheque for Rs.150/- for your contribution in the Journal of higher education. The cheque has been deposited in your Bank. I am enclosing a receipt for your signature which you may kindly return to U.G.C.

I had never wanted to work with a politician because I thought this only meant not only long hours of work but being a party to various intrigues that crop up now and then. However, having come here I find that this is not only a place where one learns human beings most in both its aspects - good and bad - but also the vital difference between how beaurocrats and public men think differently on similar problems. I am sure this training will give me lot of satisfaction.

Kindly do not hesitate to write to me for whatever service I could be capable of.

With my respectful regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(S.P. Verma)

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan,
Director General,
The International Rice Research Institute,
P.O.Box 933,
MANILA
Philippines

PS Your two letters have just arrived. Will take care of all the boxes. J