

M. F. Strong

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February 14, 1989

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan
and Mr. Garry Jacobs
Committee for Establishment of Commission
on Food for Peace
2352 Stonehouse Drive
Napa, California
USA 94558

Dear Dr. Swaminathan & Mr. Jacobs:

I am sorry I have been so long in responding to your letter of December 20th, 1988, and your invitation to me to serve as a member of a commission being set up to enhance global cooperation on food and environmental issues as a means to foster world peace and disarmament. I have just moved my headquarters to Ottawa, Canada, and in the course of making this transaction have fallen somewhat behind in my correspondence.

I take this invitation as a high compliment and as you know the subject matter is of deep interest to me. But it presents something of a dilemma. I have recently taken on some additional commitments which are very closely related to those for which the Commission is being established these have so overstretched me in terms of time, energies and resources that I have been in the process of making some hard decisions to give up some of my existing involvements. I have found that by trying to spread my energies over too many institutional responsibilities my usefulness to any of them is diminished and my own effectiveness in the causes I am trying to serve are impaired. On the other hand I am strongly attracted to this initiative, particularly because of the high regard I have for its sponsorship.

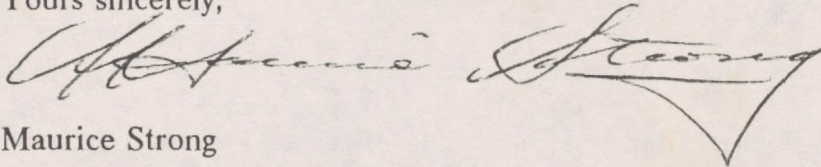
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At this point, I do hope you will understand that I think its best for me not to serve as a Founder-Member of the Commission as it would be difficult for me to accept another formal association in my present circumstances. I would like very much to be regarded as a friend of the Commission with a deep interest in it and a desire to help in whatever ways I can.

I do hope that you will keep me informed as to your progress in establishing the Commission and I in turn will look for ways in which I might be helpful. Some of the same involvements which prevent me from taking on new responsibilities of this kind also create a potential for complimentarity and cooperation.

With my very best wishes for the success of your efforts in launching this important initiative,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maurice Strong". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "Maurice Strong".

Maurice Strong