9 March 1983

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan
Director-General
International Rice Research
Institute
Los Baños, Laguna

Dear Dr. Swaminathan:

As promised by Minister Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., we are sending you herewith the letter signed by His Excellency, President Ferdinand E. Marcos, to Professor Jakob Sverdrup, Director, the Nobel Institute, nominating IRRI for the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize.

We realize that there was a deadline on the submission of nominations but we hope that you were able to request for an extension.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

MRC

MARINELA R. CASTILLO
Chief Assistant
International Affairs

DSD/hnj

FERDINAND E. MARCOS

PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

February 24, 1983

Professor Jakob Sverdrup
Director
The Nobel Institute
Oslo, Norway

Dear Professor Sverdrup,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize. I submit this nomination on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and for the sake of millions of farmers and their families in my country whose lives and aspirations have been transformed by the remarkable research achievements of IRRI.

Indeed, the great wealth of technology produced by the scientists and scholars of IRRI over the past two decades has advanced rice farming and rural incomes not only in the Philippines but throughout Asia, where 90% of the world's rice is produced and consumed and where close to one billion people depend on rice for their livelihood.

Those of us in the developing world who have witnessed and benefitted from the quantum leap in rice yields and incomes made possible by the work of IRRI realize the crucial role which the Institute has played in reducing the scourge of hunger and poverty in our part of the world.

For many decades before the creation of IRRI, agriculture in the tropics suffered from a dearth of research suited to the climatic and socio-economic conditions of farming in the tropics. This was because agricultural research conducted in the wealthy countries understandably concentrated on temperate agriculture. Established at Los Baños in the Philippines in 1960, IRRI became the first international research center to devote itself to the development of technologies which addressed the needs of tropical farming in developing countries. IRRI's pioneering efforts in this respect led the way for the eventual creation of other international research centers devoted to location-specific research in other parts of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. There are now thirteen such institutes all over the world, including IRRI. As a result, Asia and the rest of the developing world now have the technology to double or even triple crop yields.

We in the Philippines could not have succeeded in discarding our long history of perennial rice imports were it not for the high yielding varieties (HYV) which IRRI developed and made available. Masagana 99, the rice production program we launched in 1973 in the midst of the world food crisis of the early 1970's, took the HYV technology developed by IRRI and delivered it to millions of rice farmers throughout the countryside. We achieved self-sufficiency after three years, and became an exporter of rice thereafter.

By thus making its research results available to many other countries and linking up its efforts with national research systems and development programs, IRRI has helped bridge the gap between potential and actual yields in farmers' fields.

At the same time, IRRI's excellent programme for young scholars and scientists who come to the Institute from all over Asia for training and experience in rice production has helped developing countries to build up their capacity to develop and disseminate their own location - specific rice production techniques.

In recent years, as rice incomes have become increasingly eroded by the rising costs of inputs and inflation, the successful development by IRRI of varieties with multiple resistance to a broad range of pests and diseases has done a great deal to keep rice production viable for countless small farmers. This is only one example of how IRRI's research continuously turns out new technologies that respond to problems as they emerge, which is the mark of a truly vibrant and dynamic research agency.

Of vital concern for the future is the need to preserve for posterity the fruits of thousands of years of natural and human varietal selection which could be lost to humanity as the new varieties are increasingly adopted by rice farmers. The genetic conservation and utilization program recently undertaken by IRRI has stored more than 60,000 strains of rice from all over the world in its genetic bank.

It is clear that there can be no peace in a world where nearly one billion human beings continue to suffer in hunger and want.

Now, as in the years ahead, the world must feed its burgeoning population by growing more food on less land. Humanity's survival on this planet depends on our ability to meet this challenge. And that ability in turn depends to a large extent on whether we can continue to produce the research base needed to continually increase and diversify food production.

IRRI best exemplifies the relentless dedication, the creative genius, and the humanitarianism required of all of us in the international community if we are to vanquish hunger on this earth and achieve lasting peace for all.

Yours sincerely,

F. Marcos

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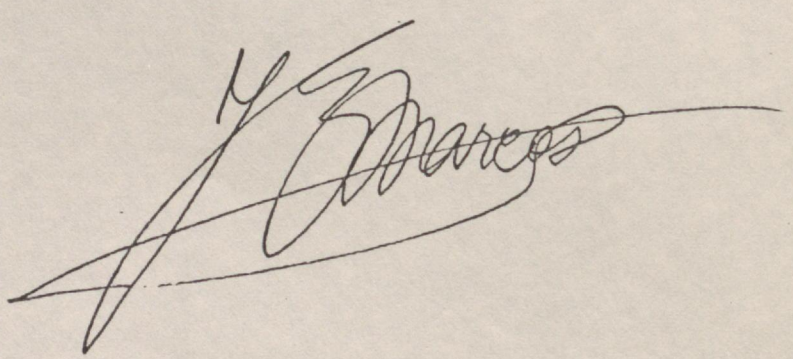
Yours sincerely,



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