

SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore-560 012.

Dr. r. Manjunath
Dept. of Biochemistry

14th February 1990

Dr. V. Siddharth,
51, Bharatinagar,
New Delhi-110 003.

Dear sir,

I am writing to you on behalf of "Scientists and Engineers for Peace and Development", an action oriented forum that is dedicated to the cause of fostering public awareness and organisation of debates on various policy matters that could influence national development and maintenance of peace. We have in the recent past successfully organised debates on several important matters related to the issue of population in India, medicinal drugs and industry, starwars and the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. We have supported other public debates in the Indian Institute of Science on issues such as 'Kaiga' and 'Narmada'. Our members come from many institutions and industries in Bangalore while most of our programmes are organised presently in Indian Institute of Science.

Currently a campaign has been launched to support the struggle against the location of 'National Missile Test Range' at the Baliapal and Bhogarai blocks in the state of Orissa. This is an area in Orissa which is rich and fertile producing many cash crops such as rice, groundnut and cashew. It is the cultivation of these and other crops especially betel vine and pann that has enabled the tribal and poorer people to gain access to much needed additional incomes. All these advantages of economic mobility will be destroyed due to the process of relocation and rehabilitation that is necessary for establishment of the test range, not to mention the hardships caused to the local inhabitants. However, while the lives of people are going to be affected by the location of this test range, we cannot also ignore the compulsions of National Security.

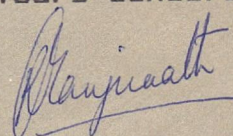
We have therefore, decided to organise a public debate here at IISc on this issue in order to educate our scientists about the larger and pertinent issues involved in the execution of such policy decisions by the government. Eminent persons knowledgeable in this area are expected to participate and Prof. C.N.R. Rao is being requested to preside over the

debate. We are very keen that you participate in this debate and present your point of view with special emphasis on the needs of the test site in relation to national security and any alternate choice available for the location of the test range.

As we are a voluntary organisation without adequate funds, we plead our inability to organise your travel funds and are therefore hesitant to invite you here. However, as we feel passionately about the issue and you are the expert in this area, we kindly appeal to you to make a sincere effort to come here. If you do manage the travel funds, we will be able to take care of your local hospitality. Dr. S.K. Biswas of Indian Institute of Science, who is on the Executive Committee suggested that we write to you inviting you to participate in this debate and to advise of anybody else that you may know who may be able to make an useful contribution. Please do let us know your decision and the dates convenient for you.

Looking forward to your reply,

Yours sincerely,



(R. MANJUNATH)

Dr. V. Siddhartha

51, Bharati Nagar
New Delhi 110003

20 February, 1990

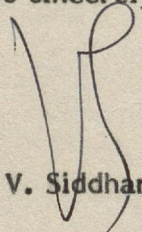
Dear Dr. Manjunath,

Thank you for your letter of 14 February 1990 inviting me to a public debate that you propose to organise at Bangalore regarding 'National Missile Test Range' at Baliapal (Orissa).

2. It was kind of you to think of me as a participant. However, as Dr. S.K. Biswas already knows, I am unable, for personal medical reasons, to spend any significant time at Bangalore. However, should you or Dr. Biswas happen to come to Delhi before your debate, I shall be happy to make myself available for a discussion, should you think this would be of any use.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. V. Siddhartha)

Dr. R Manjunath
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Copy to: Dr. S.K. Biswas, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560012.

