



AMBASSADOR OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEW DELHI

January 15, 1986

Dear Prof. Varma:

On September 6, 1985, I presented my credentials to President Zail Singh as Ambassador of the United States of America to India. I am writing both to introduce myself and to seek your advice, as a former academic exchange grantee, on various initiatives that might be undertaken to help further Indo-American relations.

In the 35 years that the U.S. Educational Foundation in India has been in operation, over 3,600 Indians have participated in academic exchange programs in the United States sponsored by the United States Government and administered by the Foundation. In the same period over 4,600 Americans have come to India on similar programs of teaching and research. Since arriving in India it has been my pleasure to meet with a large number of Indian "alumni" of academic exchange programs, and I have been overwhelmingly impressed both by the individuals and their accomplishments and by the strong professional ties and warm feelings that continue to link them to America. This confirms my long-held conviction that academic exchanges are one of the most important ways we have of promoting not only professional and educational excellence and cooperation, but understanding and good will, among nations.

I believe that the present climate in Indo-U.S. relations is better than it has been for years, and is steadily improving. I would like to do what I can towards encouraging and building on these improved relations through a more active involvement of persons like yourself. Several ideas have occurred to me that might help bring together former grantees into meaningful dialogue. Basic to getting to know each other better would be

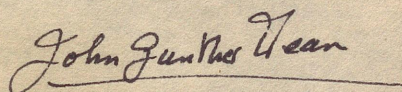
Prof. Ram Kumar Varma,
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the listing of interested former grantees, so I propose the publication of a directory of returnees, a project that could be undertaken by the Embassy. Another project would be annual regional and national seminars dealing with various aspects of Indo-American relations, exploring problem areas and seeking opportunities for cooperation and better understanding.

I would welcome your thoughts on these ideas, and would also appreciate any other suggestions that you might have for projects or programs that would contribute to the overall objective of good Indo-American relations. I hope to hear from you in the near future.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


John Gunther Dean