

460  
P+P

Excerpt from Dr. Richmond K. Anderson's Diary - May 10, 1951

Copy filed: 464

Allahabad Agricultural Institute (attached to 11/19/51 memo)

I feel the RF has occupied a rather unique position in India, which, in spite of a number of discouraging aspects of its program, has led to accomplishments and influence out of proportion to the money and personnel invested. We have no American governmental, commercial or other connection which removes from us much of the suspicion attached to other agencies. On the other hand we maintain a very close, almost exclusive connection with Indian governments which puts us in a position of trust which would otherwise not be possible. Also we have been the exponents of no particular ideology or creed, either political, religious or racial. I believe that this position holds particular promise now that India is independent. Government at present looks with favor on missionary institutions which contribute to the welfare of India, in fact the present Christian health minister has put considerable pressure on us to support missionary institutions, particularly Vellore. I would personally very much like to see us do so since I know and highly regard several of the people there and feel that it is undoubtedly the best medical college in India. Yet this attitude toward missionary institutions may not always prevail, in fact there are some signs pointing toward change already. Once we identify ourselves with missionary efforts, or place ourselves in a position where others may so identify us, we will, I think, slowly but surely lose the rather unique position which we now occupy, one which I believe promises for increasing influence with present prospects of an expanding program.

Personally I feel that agriculture is one of the fields in which assistance is most badly needed in India and I sincerely hope the RF will embark on such a program, preferably one co-ordinated with work of the other divisions.