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P+PCopy Filed: 464
Univ. Grants Comm

Commission		

December 16, 1958

Dear Dr. Deshmukh:

APR 16 1959

You will recall our conversation during my October visit in India about some of the operating difficulties which The Rockefeller Foundation has encountered with respect to its fellowships and grants. I am not at all confident that the situation has been clarified to the satisfaction of both sides. In discussions which I had with senior officials in the various ministries, moreover, I find that there is some divergence of view on the Indian side as to just how we should conduct ourselves and with whom we should keep in touch. I had supposed, from what the Minister of Finance said to me as well as from my discussion with you, that our point of contact with respect to grants to universities should be the University Grants Commission. But even on this, which would be eminently satisfactory from our point of view, we are not clear that this is well understood on the Indian side.

I know that you will fully sympathize with our desire not to become involved in relationships among departments of the Indian Government nor in such differences of approach as might exist between the States and the Center. We could, of course, continue to feel our way and try to deal with the specific difficulties as they arise, but I would be concerned lest this course served to build up a series of petty annoyances which would gradually erode the intimate relationships which we have had with our Indian colleagues for the past four decades.

An alternative might be to work out an exchange of letters between the Minister of External Affairs and The Rockefeller Foundation which would sketch out in broad terms the types of relationships which are agreeable to both sides. From our point of view, such an exchange might clarify what might otherwise become a further complex set of problems. From the point of view of the Indian Government, the discussion which would presumably precede such an exchange might serve usefully to bring about a unified approach.

I wonder if you would be willing to give me personal advice as to whether it would be wise for me to take the initiative in suggesting the negotiation of such an exchange of letters. We would be willing, as a starter, to draft a possible letter from the Foundation to the Government of India and discuss it with your Ambassador and Mr. B. K. Nehru in Washington. This draft could be discussed interdepartmentally by the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi to determine whether it provides an

adequate basis for Rockefeller Foundation activities in that country. Hopefully, we could negotiate the text of such a letter to the point where it would be satisfactory upon receipt, so that a single exchange of letters could register a meeting of minds.

Since my October visit, I have had an opportunity to discuss some of these problems with our full Board of Trustees. Our Trustees are hopeful that effective practical relationships can be worked out because of our growing interest in Indian science and scholarship and in India's capacity to contribute to the enrichment of the broader community of science and scholarship. On the other hand, our Trustees are quite clear that we could not abandon our responsibility as Trustees of the Foundation's funds nor depart from our traditional methods of operation and thereby compromise the nature of our relations with other countries in all parts of the world.

Let me repeat what I said in Delhi, to the effect that we see no real difficulties in activities concerning the three research institutions with which we have been invited to undertake a special relationship; namely, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, and the Virus Research Centre at Poona. Nor would the problems which have arisen concern the International Cultural Center.

Would it be your judgment that we should move toward an exchange of letters or that we should let matters roll along for the time being?

With high personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dean Rusk ✓

Dr. C. D. Deshmukh
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bc: Dr. Ralph W. Cummings