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New Delhi, July 6, 1973

To: Dr. K.W. Finlay
Dr. E.W. Sprague

From: R.G. Anderson

This morning I met with MSS and discussed the germplasm collection for India. As a preamble, I mentioned the present progress including the Swedish and West German interest in supporting germplasm centres and ancillary funding that was available for certain countries. I said that our funds were limited and our role had changed somewhat in the past months to one in which we were attempting to complement the FAO work. I reviewed the Indian situation with him as we had discussed it in Mexico and that as I understood it India would finance one team and CIMMYT two. I said that in our discussions it was fairly evident that collection would be unlikely to get underway this year but that we felt that the teams could be identified, the work plans laid and some preliminary work done on familiarizing the team with the approach taken in other countries by the FAO. This would include kind of records to keep, amount of seed to be collected and so on. I asked for his very frank opinion on having Kjellquist come in to do this. He seemed very glad of the opportunity but suggested that because of work loads in October, November and part of December that it would be better to set the seminar up for two weeks in January. I said that India would have to take action prior to that to set up the three teams.

We discussed the maize one. I asked about roads in Bhutan and apparently the military have installed a fairly complete network in the country. He was checking to find out what military restrictions there might be on travel in the area. He is still of the opinion that the first collection should be made there and in Assam and the second year collect in Sikkim. I mentioned Thakur's name for being associated in Sikkim. On the small grains, he felt that 3 years of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ months or less, depending on progress each year, would serve to collect all the cereal grains. I said that we felt it might be useful to have a CIMMYT representative as a back up man to assist in labelling, packaging, shipping and so on.

On the question of finances, I said that there were several ways in which this might be done. Firstly, an outright grant to India or establishing that one of the organizations with which we were associated in India might be named as CIMMYT's representative for the activities and that moneys could be handled by them and back-billed to CIMMYT. I said that I hoped he would take what I had to say about the outright grant to GOI possibility in the right light and then just said that there was danger that such a grant might become entangled with government regulations so that flexibility would be removed. He agreed completely with this and when I suggested that we had considered ICRISAT because of possibly easier quarantine movement, he said that the board of trustees in the last meeting had definite views that ICRISAT should not get into servicing other programs in this way. However, he said he was perfectly easy that either RF or FF could act in this capacity and be the financial disbursement agency on CIMMYT's behalf. No problem.

The CIMMYT-GOI agreement is likely to come, along with the other International Centers agreements, before the Cabinet in about a month's time.

I talked to him about your trip Ernie and desire to have the maize breeders accompany you to the four centres. He said he would arrange to have them available to move. I told him that if air transportation was a problem for him in arranging this, that you were prepared to cover the costs on this.

I think things are in as good shape as can be expected at the moment.

Best

R.G. Anderson