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Professor Glenn T. Seaborg
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Dear Professor Seaborg:

Thank you for the time you spent on Friday July 10, 1998 listening to our proposals to arrange a series of international symposia with the aim of lessening the impacts of toxic chemicals and pollutants in the developing Asian economies. As I mentioned we are planning to hold the first symposium next March and this will be focussed on the highly polluted Bengal Basin. The Symposium is being organized to focus on the specific pollution problems of the region and then identify appropriate and workable policies and technologies to solve those problems.

The conference will be held in Santineketon Visa Bharati University and Jadavpur University in Calcutta, West Bengal and extended to the Engineering Institute in Dhaka, Bangladesh. During the past three months I made two trips to the region and our organization of this symposium is specifically at the request of university and government leaders from the region

Visa Bharati was founded by Rabindra Nath Tagore (Nobel Laureate for Literature in 1913) and is a recognized and important multi-cultural center. While our focus is to mitigate the impact of industrial pollutants, the ultimate purpose is to improve the qualify of life for people in the region. There are no barriers between an enlightened and educated populace, public health, and a clean environment and thus we believe that the multi-cultural center is the ideal location to hold our first symposium.

Professor B.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor of Santineketon will be visiting me in Berkeley in September after completing a series of lectures on Rabindra Nath Tagore which he is giving in Canada and on the East Coast. Professor S.C. Some, Vice-Chancellor of Jadavpur University, Calcutta, will also be working as a contact in India. Already, Dr. Some's wife, Dr. Citraleka Chowdhury (a famous singer of Tagore songs), is organizing the details of the venue, accommodation, and cultural events which will be a necessary part of the conference. Dr. Nelufar Ahmed, Director of the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka, Bangladesh will be primarily responsible for the organization of the conference and workshop sessions in Bangladesh.

Everyone associated with this conference, particularly colleagues in India and Bangladesh, was pleased and excited to know that you have kindly agreed to lend your name to, and encourage our efforts to start addressing the real and important problems of pollution in one of the poorest and neglected parts of the world. Our task now is to quickly gather the

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people and funding from international sources to make the symposium a success. Success will be measured by positive changes in environmental policies and reduction of pollution. If this symposium meets our goals we intend to develop specific training programs and then extend the program to other developing countries.

My own background is that of an environmental scientist having worked for the California Environmental Protection Agency for over ten years. Before that, I conducted environmental research at Stanford University and at Salford Universities in England where I studied England's polluted Mersey estuary and the Liverpool Bay. During that time I was very fortunate to interact with, and be encouraged by, the Chancellor of Salford University the Honorable Prince Philip, and Britain's former Environment Secretary. It was through Professor W.E. Kershaw, a world expert in tropical medicine and waterborne diseases, and Dr. M. Pugh Thomas that I gained a commitment to the importance of the environment in public health. Back in 1971, prior to leaving Bangladesh to start my studies in England I was very much involved in the liberation of Bangladesh and had considered entering the politics. Now I believe I can make a more important contribution by taking what I have learned from my work in Britain and the U.S.A. to improve the lives of people in the developing countries through helping to abate environmental pollution.

I am being helped in this endeavor by two colleagues, Dr. Derek Whitworth and Dr. Inga Harding-Barlow. Dr Whitworth is an environmental engineer with a background in chemical process engineering and with an M.B.A. he is bringing organizational and management skills to this project. Dr. Barlow is a toxicologist with experience in public health issues developing countries

We are currently gathering detailed environment information on the Bengal Basin and will pass this on to you. As discussed, we would appreciate any guidance that you can offer on how to approach the problems. During our meeting you mentioned the possibility that you could prepare a video tape for a presentation at the conference.

Once again thank you for your time and encouragement and I look forward to meeting with you again in the near future..

Sincerely,

Rash B. Ghosh

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