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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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31 May 1973

Dear Don,

Your letter of 15 May has arrived and I am torn between amusement at your graphic descriptions and dismay at the horrible examples. I have known for a long time about the personnel problem. In fact I even hear about some of them here - no details but the message is clear. Chris Conybeare is here in the Australian Embassy, Scott's people are also around and others pass by and I get letters from other old friends and colleagues. As you say, George certainly has his moments, but the general reactions seem to be unhappy.

Anyway let us not labour the point, but get down to specifics.

We expect to leave here about 6/7 July to be in Auckland as Visiting Professor for about 6 weeks, then Sydney for a week and back here. So we will miss you here - unfortunately. But we will see you in Sydney in August. The Auckland deal may fall through of course - if so we will be delighted to have you stay with us here.

The Auckland invitation was one of three right now. Saigon and Bangkok also wanted me to consult on planning programmes and schools. With five years at the University of the Philippines as Visiting Professor and three years before that as Professorial Lecturer, I might just give George a fright on the way to the chair.

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Anyway, if George gets it - and he might and there could be worse occupants - the part-time deal would be hopeless. I have seen too much of that here. Neither job gets done properly and the other full-time people in both places become so fed-up and antagonistic that everything is retarded. Students won't stand for it anymore either and if George thinks he can play this game in Sydney then his teaching experience so far has been that of a dilettante.

* The Chair at the UofS2

Mr. Don Gazzard
71 Windsor Road
Paddington, Sydney, Australia

The difficulties USC has now with a full-time George would be compounded with a part-time one. I would not like to work with anyone under such an arrangement and I am sure most USC people, past and present, would feel the same. If he does get the chair, make the break complete as far as ordinary operations are concerned. George could take on special consultancies anywhere or anytime through the University's Research Centre I expect, and this could also play hell with any continuing part-time attachment to USC. At the same time he could equally well take on special and proscribed consultancies for USC using his own resources and those of the Research Centre. This would be best for everybody.

I am not surprised that Bruce is not returning yet. I get a letter from him occasionally and I think he will stick to UNHQ for a while. Bruce likes that sort of work, he can get around the world a bit, Shirley likes New York and so on and if Bruce does a good job he can rise in the UN pecking order and he may stay there for years.

Now, as to my situation, I have changed jobs as mentioned on the telephone. I have moved into the office of the Resident Representative as Senior Planning Adviser in the Philippines. UNHQ offered me Colombo or Karachi Project Manager jobs recently as I had said I wanted a change by mid-1973 but neither attracted me. Also Nagoya, Iran and The Hague are still possibilities but nothing definite. Anyway I am now integrating the execution of all UNDP inputs in the Philippines - a country and programme wide version of what I was doing (and am still doing as one component) in the planning projects - all the latter incidentally going from strength to strength. Presented this week to the World Bank Consultative Group Meeting Paris in fact.

The R.R. move means that if all goes well another year or two might bring me to the R.R. level in some country or other - probably some benighted locale! This of course has its attractions.

At the same time Australia and USC also have attractions - especially so if you and I and Ian could work together, jointly directing the architectural and planning and management operations - and integrating them rather better I would hope. I think such an arrangement would almost be conditional to my return. I have reached the point in life where I want to make the most of what is left and have less and less inclination to be buggered about. I think I have also reached the point where I would be offered short-term international consultancies at reasonable intervals.

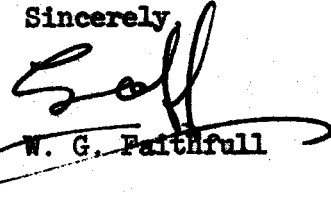
Anyway, let us not close any doors at this point. My interest is still very much alive and if something can be worked out to all our advantages towards the end of the year then let us do so. Please give me your further thoughts before we meet in August if you can.

We are delighted to hear of Marea's activities. She is making great progress. By the time we get around to it, her work will be out of our range.

We miss you all, and of course this is one very good reason for contemplating return.

Our love and best wishes to all at your house.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'W. G. Faithfull', is written over the printed name. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

W. G. Faithfull