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June 17, 1970.

Dear Friend,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a brief report on the First Writers' Camp held by the Trust at Mysore from May 30 to June 3, 1970 for your information and record.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Shri N.V. Krishna Warrior,  
Director, Language  
Institute, Nalanda,  
TRIVANDRUM.  
(Kerala State)

( K.S. DUGGAL )

Encl: As above

AN INTERVIEW WITH SHRI N.V. KRISHNA WARRIOR, ONE OF THIS  
YEAR'S WINNERS OF THE SOVIET LAND NEHRU AWARD.

1. Question: What were your reactions on hearing that you have won the Soviet Land Nehru Award?

Answer: Firstly I was thrilled. This is such a great honour to any writer in India and there is enough reason to feel alighted. The feeling of elation is due to two reasons. The award is a recognition of the services the recipient has made to his own literature, culture and to the cause of understanding between the peoples of India and the Great Soviet Union. Secondly the award is given in the name of one of the greatest sons of India. Since I remember I had been a great admirer of the Great Soviet Union and also that great son of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Hence I have enough reasons to feel honoured and even alighted.

2. Quest: Please tell us something about your contributions on the team of Indo Soviet friendship?

Answer: I started writing poetry somewhere in 1936. The struggle for national liberation was mounting in India and we were all nationalists buring with the fervour of patriotism. Naturally the the main theme of my early poems was nationalism and the desire for hunger from time to time, from foreign domination. Around 1940 I got interested in Soviet Union mainly through the writings of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In 1943 I composed a long poem on a Russian martyre girl who sacrificed her life to vidicate the honour of her village in Ukraine which was occupied by the Nazi forces. This poem was first published in the Kathrubhumi weekly. Then it was brought out as a separate book with a long introduction by no less a person than poet Sankara Kurup. Later this was incorporated in my first collection of poems. After visiting Soviet Union in 1968 I wrote a poem "Dowidania" depicting the warm friendship of the people of Soviet Union for the people of India and

also the inspiration that we imbibe from the Soviet Union in our struggle for establishing a egalitarian and socialist society in our country. My poem "O! Lenin" composed during the Lenin Centenary celebrations placed my humble tribute to the great leader of workers all over the world and also indicates how is great ideals can contribute towards a socialist transformation of India. I have also written during my journalistic career on various other aspects of Soviet life. I have been associated in my humble way with the movement for strengthening the cultural bonds between the peoples of the Great Soviet Union in India all these years.

3. Quest.

Have you any definite suggestion for strengthening this cultural relations between the people of Soviet Union and India?

Answer:

Yes. At present I am connected with the preparation of University-level text books in our regional language 'Malayalam'. We were dependent for our text books at the University-level entirely on Great Britain. Lately our Universities have started using some of American publications also. Quite recently the movement for the introduction of the regional languages as medium of instruction at the University-level has gained ground and all the State Governments have set up agencies for preparing such books in the respective languages. It is quite natural that in the beginning a large number of texts on technical and scientific subjects will have to be translated from foreign languages. At present the main source language is English and for translating from English we require the copyright clearance from British and American publishers. Barring a few American publishers almost all the publishers of the English speaking world are very reluctant to give copyright clearance on reasonable terms for they fear that if books come in large numbers in the regional languages of India they will lose a very profitable trade. Hence the translation programme in India is at present very largely thwarted. Secondly most

of the books in English are oriented towards a particular political and economic ideology with which the people of India cannot agree. This is especially so in the matter of books on Social Sciences. It will be indeed a momentous step towards a real cultural revolution in India if we develop facilities for translating texts of scientific and technical subjects published in the socialist countries especially in Soviet Union.

A number of books are annually published by Progress Publishers in English and these can be translated into our languages. It is also possible to translate directly from Russian to regional languages of India since a large number of Indians are now taking to the study of Russian language. What is required that those who know Russian and one Indian language should be given a short intensive course on scientific translation techniques.

At present there is an Indo Soviet Text Book Board in Delhi. If this Board is activated the above objective can be achieved. They can make a selection of up-to-date Russian books available for translation to the regional agencies in India engaged in the production of University-level text books. If this work is centrally co-ordinated, blocks and illustrations can be pooled and can be made available to all the agencies according to their need. This will considerably reduce the cost of production and make really worthwhile technical and scientific books available to our people at a nominal price. The Indo-Soviet Text Book Board can also give periodic training courses in translation at some central place so that a reasonable number of efficient translators may be prepared in all the regional languages of India. It is even possible to have a Central Text Book Press where the books in all Indian languages translated from Russian can be printed with uniform format and illustrations. If such a centre is developed it can also produce audio visual aids in all Indian languages.



Many of the works of outstanding Russian fiction writers are available in Malayalam translations and the present generation of readers and writers in Malayalam are greatly influenced by these works. The translation of scientific and technical works from Russian in a massive scale can exert a greater influence on us culminating in a socialistic transformation of our traditional society which will be a consummation devoutly to be wished for.

19.11.1971.

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