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Richard F. Prince, M.D.
1655 Los Altos Road
San Diego, Ca. 92109

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URANTIA

October 2, 1979

Martin W. Myers, Chairman
International Fellowship Committee
URANTIA Brotherhood
533 Diversey Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear Martin:

I was delighted to learn of the resolution, passed by the Triennial Delegate Assembly, directing that a special fund be established for a Spanish translation. I wrote Marian Rowley, asking for the wording of the resolution so that I might share the good news with my friends in Bogota. Her letter to me of September 12th contained the resolution, but good news travels very fast. I say that because I have received a letter, dated September 7th, from Carlos Zapata of Bogota, telling me of the great joy within the group when they learned of the resolution! Julia Fenderson has always maintained that the Urantia grapevine travels at near the speed of light, but I never realized that it was both international and multilingual.

You must find yourself in some rather interesting situations as chairman of International Fellowship at just this time, Martin, and I want you to know that I am sensitive to your situation. By that I simply mean that the constitution charges the committee to develop translation funds, promulgate translations, and foster societies around the world. This is as it should be, for the Brotherhood exists to promote just these kinds of relations and activities. But the Foundation has a purpose which is not exactly the same, and at times will find itself in counterposition to the Brotherhood. You, for example, cannot actively foster the development of a French translation at this time, despite the stated desire of the Brotherhood to do so, because of the many problems which exist there at this time. Carol tried to bring me up to date on what is happening there now when she was here in August. Fortunately such a situation does not exist now in Latin America, and let us pray that one will not develop. I refer to the situation in France only to point out that in your unique role as trustee, you may find yourself of being in a position in which the goals of one organization may not be completely compatible with those of the other. I am sure that such a circumstance has already occurred to you as a possibility, if not a reality, and I simply want to let you know that I realize the potentially awkward positions which may arise. Should you find yourself in such a position as relationships develop in Spanish-speaking regions in which I have been active I will try, in as empathetic a way as possible, to explain to those involved, the nature of your predicament. Again, I say this not because I foresee such a predicament arising, but only because it seems to me that the potential, at least, exists.

Having said all that, I want to discuss two issues with you. The first relates to the translation fund. Naturally the folks in Colombia are interested in that project, and can be expected to contribute. I feel that they would have little interest in contributing to a Finnish, or even a French work, so long as there was none in their own language, but I know that they are very happy with the chance to help their "own" translation become a reality. They have done no translating on their own, at Douglas' request. They paid a professional translator to do one or two papers, but when they were asked by Douglas to stop, they did so. I know that you have received advice from Europe to have native speakers do the translations. While those who I consider to be fluently bilingual concur with this feeling for the Spanish translation as well, at this point they fully agree to do nothing, and are placing their complete trust in the Foundation and Brotherhood. I would be grateful if you would let me know how things are going with the fund. I don't mean every little decision made, but if you could simply share with me the major steps forward, I will be glad to pass the news on to the group in Bogota. I cannot overemphasize the importance they place on the development of this fund, as a vindication of their collective (I would be less than candid if I said unanimous) decision to do nothing and to leave matters in your hands. It required placing trust in a group of nationals which, on the whole, are not really considered trustworthy in Latin America, and it reflects, to me, their group consciousness as members of an international movement which can transcend national boundaries. I hope that all who are involved in developing the fund may realize how precious and indeed fragile a gift their trust is. This is an extremely intelligent and resourceful group, and to voluntarily give up any attempt to control what is, to each of them I met, the most influential and significant influence in his life, is a tremendous act of faith and trust. I take great comfort in knowing that you and others involved in this process will be sensitive to what they have done.

The second issue relates to another point mentioned in the constitution, that of developing societies abroad. While there are not now enough readers who have read the book in its entirety to qualify as founders, they do have enough members to meet the requirements in every other way, and the aforementioned is to be a problem only for a few more years. New readers, many bilingual are coming forward from time to time, as you have seen happen before. I discussed with Carlos Zapata the possibility of his being, or the group as a whole being representatives for the region in the absence of a society. I told him of how I functioned for the Brotherhood as a local representative in Eureka, California when I lived there, before I even became a member-at-large. I told him what Mark Kulike had told me once about the file for international correspondence which he had set up for the Foundation, which contained names and addresses of readers from many parts of Latin America. I didn't know (and still don't) if the Brotherhood has such a file, but you must, from time to time, receive inquiries from Latin America. The group in Bogota has expressed a desire to serve as local contact persons for the Brotherhood. This seems an ideal first step toward their eventual integration into the more formal relationship, and I suggest you and the rest of the committee might wish to give the idea

some consideration. I truly believe that any reader who is a Latin would derive tremendous satisfaction from knowing that there is such a group which is working in harmony and cooperation with the " gringo " organization. This may, in some people's minds, represent a big step, but I see it as nothing more than an expression of reciprocation of the trust which they have already placed in the people involved in the Brotherhood and Foundation, to which I have already alluded in this letter. Again, I am not necessarily asking for a positive response in your next letter (though such a response would indeed be delightful!!) but I feel that the committee should know of the conversation which I had with Carlos and several others, and should realize that there are benefits from such an action on many levels. Again, I suggested this possibility to Carlos and the others because it seemed entirely analagous to the function given to me in northern California prior to my becoming a Brotherhood member.

Of course, I could go on, but I shall restrain myself. Let me close by saying that I look forward to serving the committee in any way possible. Perhaps it would help you to know that I intend to return to Bogota sometime in the first half of next year. I cannot be more specific at this time, but would like to do it as soon as possible. Lynn and I both correspond with various members of the group there, so just let us know if you wish anything of an informal nature passed along. I hope that we will soon be able to find a mutually agreeable date for Douglas and me to return to Chicago to meet with the trustees. Perhaps an informal chat on strictly Brotherhood affairs could also be arranged with you, John and whoever else is interested.

Much love to you and everyone else at 533

Sincerely,

Dick

Richard F. Prince