

May 1, 1997

Dear Ms. Anand:

Thank you for agreeing to Participate in the Conference on Asian-Pacific American Leadership's (CAPAL) forum on Coalition Building and South-Asian Participation. We believe this is a very important but not often discussed topic. Our goal for the evening is to begin a dialogue between the South-Asian and greater Asian-Pacific American (APA) communities so to foster better communication and collaboration, particularly relating to public policy. We very much look forward to hearing your comments and ideas.

As you can see from the enclosed flyer, the event will take place on Wednesday, May 14, 1997 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in 2325 Rayburn House Office Building. The Rayburn Building is located on South Capitol Street, SW between Independence Avenue and C Street, SW. The nearest metro stop is South Capitol.

We ask that you speak for 8-10 minutes on points of agreement and areas of misunderstanding or misperception that you see between South-Asians and the broader APA community. If possible, could you please discuss the diversity within the South-Asian community (Bengalis, Pakistanis, Punjabis, etc.) and how that may affect cooperation issues. We also would like you to speak to the benefits of strengthening ties. Following the panel, we will break into small groups so that participants can discuss among themselves ways of overcoming obstacles to cooperation. We believe that community building must be done on as personal a level as possible. We would also like you to lead one of these groups, focusing on steps that can be taken to foster better relations.

The forum will be lead by Anju P. Bhargava, V.P. of Risk Management Division, Fleet Bank and the format is as follows:

6:30pm to 6:50pm - reception.

6:50pm to 6:55pm - welcome by Angelo Chang, Chair of CAPAL.

Sydney Reddy introduction of program and moderator.

6:55pm to 7:05pm - moderator introduces panel.

7:05pm to 7:50pm - panel.

each speaker takes no more than 8-10 minutes to speak.

moderator summarizes main points made by each speaker.

moderator describes goal of break-out groups.

7:50pm to 8:15pm - break-out groups.

facilitators lead discussion of possible steps to foster better relations.

8:15pm to 8:30pm - break-out groups report out and closing.

We would also like to request your talking points by May 5 so that we may coordinate with the other speakers. If you have any questions please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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