10th May, 1966.

Dr. M. Nirenberg,
National Institutes of Health,
9000 Wisconsin Avenue,
Bethesda, Md. 20014,
U.S.A.

Dear Marshall,

Relax! Relax! I didn't really believe that you had acted in an elaborate underhand way, but I had to point out to you how it might appear to someone looking at it from outside.

It seems to me that you were perhaps foolish on two points:

(1) You might well have sent both Gobind and myself, as a matter of courtesy, a Xerox copy of your PNAS paper at the time you submitted it.

(2) Having suggested that your paper on Holley's sRNA be published with Gobind's and mine you should have tried to write it up promptly to avoid delays to our papers.

I agree with your general remarks that the questions of priority are trivial, and as far as I know Brian Clark and Kal Marcker have no complaints. (Incidentally, it was Menninger who visited you, not Marcker.) Nor does it greatly concern me personally how you publish your results, since I am only doing theoretical work. But you must realise that, rightly or wrongly, Gobind was upset when your PNAS paper appeared. I think therefore you should write him a nice, calm letter covering the two points I have mentioned above. Will you do this? You may have told him on the telephone about your PNAS paper, but that is not his impression. He thought you wanted the reference for your paper about Holley's sRNA.

I do sympathise with your problem of writing up work already completed. Sydney and I often have the same trouble. In the long run I think it pays to write up things promptly.

Looking forward to seeing you at Cold Spring Harbor,

Yours sincerely,

F. H. C. Crick