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To Whom It May Concern:

July 29, 1983

It has been brought to my attention that Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, currently residing in Antelope, Oregon, is seeking permanent resident status in the United States as a "religious leader".

I have not met Rajneesh personally. I am, however, completely familiar with the religious community in Oregon since I have a daughter there. My wife and I have visited Rajneeshpuram on several occasions. I am also somewhat familiar with Rajneesh's writings and while not entirely in accord with all the tenets expressed believe them to be essentially religious and metaphysical in nature.

I have been much impressed by the accomplishments of Rajneesh and his group in building a viable community in Oregon. It is hard to visit Rajneeshuram without sensing a fundamentally spiritual bond that unites Rajneesh and his disiples. The community is living testimony to spiritual leadership. I believe Rajneesh entirely deserves the status of a "religious leader" and it would be sheer bigotry to deny him the right to live and teach in the United States.

Sincerely yours

Surdick D. STOW