



Community Meditation Center

July 20, 1983

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in support of Bhagwan Sri Rajneesh in his efforts to reside in this country as a spiritual teacher. At the outset I would like to point out that I am not a follower or student of his and have no connection with his organization. But I have been observing him, his followers, and media and government reactions for some time and would like to express some of my own reactions as a native-born American "expert witness" in the field of Indian religion and meditation. I have taught these subjects for the past 10 years at various universities (see enclosed bio sketch).

I believe Rajneesh is a rare and highly qualified teacher. He is a master of a technology of human growth which might be characterized as a "super-psychotherapy". Although his approach differs from my own, and he encourages some things which I would not, I recognized his exceptional ability as a meditation teacher, and have seen the salutary effect he has on people.

Much has been made of his silence. Non-verbal communication as a form of spiritual teaching has a venerable tradition in both Eastern and Western tradition. I myself have had some experience of its power in my relationships with my own teachers. India in particular has a tradition of what is called in sanskrit mauna, a kind of "noble silence". The issue therefore is not can a person function as a spiritual teacher without speaking. The issue is does Rajneesh so function. By my observation, he does so very well. To deny him a visa on the grounds of silence belies the principle of religious freedom, a cornerstone of the American way

I thank you for your consideration and I will be looking forward to your reply.

Sincerely,


Shinzen Young, Director
Community Meditation Center

Encl.