

AUG. 4, 1983

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

DEAR SIR,

I WRITE CONCERNING THE CONTINUING DISCRIMINATORY ACTIONS BY THE I.N.S. TOWARD THE SPIRITUAL MASTER BHAGWAN SHREE RAJNEESH. I AM ASHAMED BY THE BEHAVIOR SHOWN BY OUR GOVERNMENT WITH REGARDS TO THIS CASE.

IF, AS I ASSUME, THE GOVERNMENT'S CASE WAS TRUTHFULLY PRESENTED ON THE A. D. C. NEWS PROGRAM, 'NIGHTLINE', THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY, 1983; IN WHICH BHAGWAN'S CREDABILITY WAS CHALLENGED DUE TO HIS CURRENT OUTWARD SILENCE, THE ABSURDITY OF WHICH THE NARRATOR, MR. TED KOPPEL, POINTEDLY NOTED IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH THE I.N.S. SPOKESMAN FROM PORTLAND.

IF IT IS TRULY THE WISH OF THE I.N.S. TO BRING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO ITS HANDLING OF THIS PARTICULAR CASE, THEN AS A CITIZEN AND TAXPAYER, I WOULD HOPE THAT MY TAX INVESTMENT MIGHT AT LEAST REFLECT THAT THE I.N.S., WITH ITS VAST LEGAL RESOURCES, COULD PRESENT A CASE IN A LIGHT WHICH DOESN'T INSULT THE INTELLIGENCE AND SENSIBILITIES OF ANY BUT THE MOST BIGOTED AND REACTIONARY OF INDIVIDUALS.

IS THE UNITED STATES IN SUCH A QUAGMIRE THAT WE WILL OPEN OUR DOORS TO HOARDES OF CUBAN PRISONERS AND MYRIADS OF IMPOVERISHED AND UNEDUCATED (THOUGH NOT UNDESERVING) SOUTHEAST ASIANS, ONLY TO REFUSE RESIDENCE TO AN ACKNOWLEDGED RELIGIOUS LEADER, WHOSE DISCIPLES NUMBER INTO THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS, INCLUDING MANY AMERICANS?

I SPEAK AS QUITE AN ORDINARY PERSON, WHO WORKS FIVE DAYS A WEEK DIRECTING A CULTURAL CENTER IN LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA. WE DO WHAT WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT A MILIEU OF CREATIVITY AND CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC GROWTH FOR THE YOUNG AND THE ELDERLY IN THE COMMUNITY.

HAVING STUDIED MANY OF RAJNEESH'S DISCOURSES OVER THE PAST FIVE OR SIX YEARS, I HAVE FOUND THEM TO BE ENLIGHTENING, SOMETIMES HUMOROUS, AND ALWAYS VERY MUCH TO THE POINT ON THE

QUESTIONS WHICH SEEM TO BE TROUBLING PEOPLE MOST IN THIS TIME OF SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL DISENCHANTMENT. IF THE QUESTION OF SPIRITUAL AUTHENTICITY IS A SINCERE ONE, THEN PLEASE, LET ME DIRECT THE QUESTIONER TO ANY OF THE HUNDREDS OF BOOKS AND TAPES OFFERED BY THE RAJNEESH FOUNDATION.

IT IS MY DEEPEST HOPE AND PRAYER THAT THE INS AND OTHER ADVERSE PARTIES MIGHT MODIFY THEIR FEAR OF THIS VERY SIMPLE MAN, WHO IS A BEACON TO SO MANY PEOPLE AND IS SIMPLY ATTEMPTING TO LIVE WITH HIS DISCIPLES IN THE REMOTE DESERT COUNTRY OF OREGON, INTO AN ATTITUDE OF HUMANITARIAN TOLERANCE AND FORBEARANCE TOWARD THE RELIGIOUS VIEWS OF OTHERS, AS HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE.

SINCERELY YOURS,



ROGER RALPHS

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