

GUIDO MARTINOTTI

via del Caravaggio, 5 - 20 Milano - tel. 435604

Milano, July 20th, 1983

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have been surprised in knowing that Mr. Bhagwan is being denied stable residence in the United States. Short of reviving the ancient outrage against Socrates, which has plagued philosophers ever since, I am not capable to understand in which way the peaceful and quieting wisdom of the neo-sannyasi movement could be threatening to anyone. In addition one would also recall the much too obvious remark that America is both a land of immigrants and of immigrants who searched there a place to reconstruct a more just and livable community. The enormous religious and existential pluralism of American society is undoubtedly one of its more characterising and more attracting traits. All thinkers who try to fathom the human mind and who try to extend their experience to disciples must to some degree go into the unconventional but what could not be tolerated in ancient Athens - and yet remained an historical dark spot on that civilization - certainly should be accepted by a society such as the American one in which unconventionality and pluralism are the basis of its national culture.

The writer is a professor of Sociology at the University of Pavia, he studied in the U.S. at Columbia and at the University of California, Berkeley in 1962-1964 and has ever since frequently come back for periods of research and teaching. The writer has been Secretary General of the International Sociological Association for several years and in this role has been active in international organizations as well as in academic circles around the world. As a scholar author of several essays and books, notably one on student movement and more recently coeditor of "Education in a changing society" (London, Sage, 1980) expresses his wishes that the request of Mr. Bhagwan is accepted.

Guido Martinotti

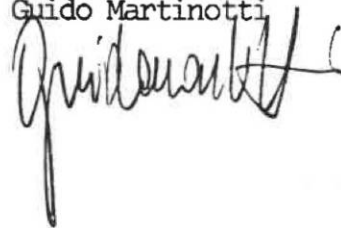


EXHIBIT "A-359"