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Mon 18th July

To whom it may concern :

I am an agricultural scientist on the staff of the Agricultural Research Service of the United Kingdom. Since 1967 I have been employed as Senior Scientific Officer in a small team based at the So Crop Research Institute, which is investigating problems of adaptation, disease resistance and utilization of primitive South American potatoes in the Northern Hemisphere (see, for instance, CARROLL, C.P. (1982) 'A mass-selection method for the acclimatization and improvement of edible diploid potatoes in United Kingdom'. J. AGRIC. SCI. CAMB. 99: 631-640). Prior to entering this field of work I was employed as a cytologist at the Welsh Plant Breeding Station (1957 onwards) studying reproductive processes in forage grasses from warm temperate areas (see, for instance, CARROLL, C.P. (1966) 'Autopolyploid and the assortment of chromosomes'. CHROMOSOMA, BERL. 18: 19-43)

I first came in contact with the distinguished philosopher and spiritual teacher, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, while travelling in India in 1976. He was at that time leading a community in Poona, Maharashtra State, which besides its primary purpose in the area of meditation and religious education was also concerned with creative crafts and arts and the cultivation of a quite wide range of food plants. I found a higher level of awareness than was usual in India of the problems of plant disease and the need for

match cultivars to environment and husbandry techniques I was later able to arrange for several samples of various cultivars of tomato and bell-pepper to be sent to Poona where they were trialled for suitability in the ashram gardens.

Recently I had the opportunity of visiting the new community established by Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in the State of Oregon, U.S.A. (City of Rajneeshpuram). The communal enterprise has been set-up in a remote and arid area which has been reduced by poor range-management in the past to semi-desert, subject ~~to~~ to serious soil-erosion. I was surprised to find that, in only two seasons of development, a productive truck-farm has been established and that dairy cattle and winter wheat are being raised successfully. On the truck-farm a wide range of vegetable cultivars are being tested for performance under local conditions. Scientifically planned irrigation and control of ground-water are being practised. The ecological balance in the area is being protected and restored through avoidance of pollution, and composting and recycling of waste. Although Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh originally trained in philosophy and religion his understanding of modern society and its problems seems to be outstanding, and he has a rare ability to inspire large groups of people to care for, and improve, the environment by a combination of hard work and the application of up-to-date scientific knowledge. Rajneeshpuram is a unique experiment, which could perhaps only have come about in the United States and which is of international relevance in the field of agricultural renewal. It would seem to me to be a retrograde step if it had to be terminated because of administrative difficulties concerning a visa for this outstanding Indian national.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher P. Carrell, B.Sc., I