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National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20205HONOLULU HEART PROGRAM
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To Whom It May Concern,

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is a world renowned religious teacher and spiritual leader. That he has a large following of already successful psychologists, doctors, scientists, educators, and clergymen is testimony to his importance as a resource for learning and self knowledge. It has always been so, that intelligent people seek out people wiser or more skilled than themselves in order to further their development. The eminent American psychologist, Abraham Maslow has stated, "It has been my experience through a long line of exploratory investigations going back to the thirties that the healthiest people (or the most creative, or the strongest, or the wisest, or the saintliest) can be used as assays, or perhaps I could say, as advanced scouts, or more sensitive perceivers, to tell us less sensitive ones what it is we value." There have been more than 350 books published on the discourses of Rajneesh covering the widest range of topics in science, religion, psychology, and literature, both historical and modern. They are popular because they give a fresh clarity and deeper understanding to their themes and lead the reader or listener to clearer perceptions of themselves, with less doubt, confusion, and uncertainty. With all our universities and the advanced science and technology of the present age, doubt and confusion are as rampant as ever. It is a sad sign of our times that the three best selling prescription drugs are an ulcer medication, a hypertensive drug, and a tranquilizer.

Having been a follower of Rajneesh for more than seven years, I have learned that developing clear vision dispels confusion, developing consciousness dispels ignorance, and discovering health and harmony are the best remedies for disease. Having been a public health scientist for years, I can tell you that most of research has been more a 'war' on disease with little effort toward understanding what health actually is. Have you ever heard of anyone studying healthy people; only rarely. We can learn more about health, whether psychological, spiritual, physical, or otherwise, by knowing and learning from people who already know how to be healthy, happy, wise, and harmonious with their existence. Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is one of those rare individuals who not only lives it, but can teach it as well. The ecological living experiment currently under way at his center in North-Central Oregon is testimony to the success of his vision and teaching. Such distinguished individuals become national treasures wherever they reside. I, therefore support, without reservation, the granting of permanent legal residence to Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in the United States.

Yours sincerely,

Richard J. Benfante, Ph.D., M.P.H.

EXHIBIT "A-213"

CIRRICULUM VITAE

Richard J. Benfante

Date and Place of Birth: 2 December 1944. New York City.

Fields of Specialization and Research Interests: Human Population Biology, Biomedical Anthropology, Epidemiology and Genetics, Health and Aging, Psycho-Social and Bio-Cultural Factors in Health and Disease.

University Education:

B.A. Zoology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, 1966.

M.A. Anthropology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, 1969.

Ph.D. Biological Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1980.

M.P.H. Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, 1982.

Employment and Experience:

Consulting Epidemiologist, Honolulu Heart Program and Japan-Hawaii Cancer Study, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and National Cancer Institute, Public Health Service, Honolulu, Hawaii, April, 1982-Present, Dr. Dwayne Reed, Director.

Epidemiologist, Epidemiological Studies of Cancer and other Chronic Diseases in the Alaskan Native Population (Eskimos, Indians, and Aleuts), Bureau of Epidemiology, Alaska Investigations Division, Centers for Disease Control, Public Health Service, Anchorage, Alaska, June-August, 1981, Dr. Thomas R. Bender, Director.

Biologist-Anthropologist, Section for the Study of Child Growth and Development and Disease Patterns in Primitive Cultures, National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, 1970-80, Dr. D. Carleton Gajdusek, Section Chief, Nobel Laureate, 1976.

Serological Epidemiological Studies of Arbovirus Infections in Primitive Human Populations, Yale Arbovirus Research Unit, New Haven, August, 1977 and November, 1978, Dr. Jordi Casals, Laboratory Chief.

Research Assistant, Sensory Biology Research Center, Florida State University, Tallahassee, 1969-70, Dr. Lloyd Beidler, Laboratory Chief.

Academic Awards and Appointments:

Educational Consultant and Teaching Assistant, Special Educational Opportunities Program, Health Careers for Pacific Islanders, Asians, and Native Americans, Department of International Health, School of Public Health, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, 1981.

Public Health Service Traineeship, Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, 1980-1981.

Instructor in Human Biology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1973-1974.

NIMH Fellow, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1972-1973.

Professional Societies:

American Public Health Association

Association for Humanistic Psychology

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Society for Medical Anthropology

American Association of Physical Anthropologists

Fellow, Human Biology Council