

15-7-83

To whom it may concern.

To my great surprise I have heard that Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh has difficulties with his application for a visa to stay in the United States.

I have always taken for granted that the USA has a welcoming attitude toward great people in our times, so long as they have no evaluations which are against the constitution, or in any way dangerous to the security of the country.

To me, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is certainly one of the most remarkable men of our times, by virtue of his wide knowledge, maturity and capability to teach his message and put it into practice.

I have come to know him well by reading many of his books and also through the medium of my profession as a psychiatrist, I have come to know therapists who have studied and practised at Shree Rajneesh Ashram in Poona, India and Rajneeshpuram, Oregon. I have also had many patients who have, through my own or other recommendations, read Rajneesh's books and participated in courses and meditations in different Rajneesh-centres which are established throughout the world and also here in Stockholm.

I have been able to observe how the contact with Rajneesh has had a significance toward their recovery of mental health and working capacity.

That such a man now lives, and is left open to continue his life's mission within the borders of your country should be an asset of immeasurable significance, and is of course also to be regarded as a great mutual favour and honour.

I know that many of my colleagues share the same opinion as myself in this matter.

Regarding my capacity to express my opinion in this matter, I refer to my competence as a specialist in psychiatry; active in the profession for 35 years, also my position as a polyclinical doctor, with status as chief (senior) physician, at Beckomberga, the biggest mental hospital in Stockholm. I also work at a hospital clinic which is connected to the Medical Faculty, Karolinska Institute, the University of Stockholm.

Yours faithfully,



Sven-Erik Åkström
/Chief (senior) physician/