

JULY 28, 1983
RAJNEESH PURAM, OR.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE COMMITTING A GRAVE AND REGRETABLE ERROR WERE IT TO DENY BHAGWAN SHREE RAJNEESH PERMISSION TO RESIDE AS A PERMANANT RESIDENT IN THE U. S. A.

ON EVERY LEVEL OF AMERICAN LIFE THERE IS MUCH TO BE GAINED BY HIS CONTINUING PRESENCE. HE IS, WITHOUT DOUBT, A RELIGIOUS TEACHER OF THE HIGHEST CALIBER. HIS REPUTATION IS WORLD-WIDE, NOT ONLY AS A PHILOSOPHER, MYSTIC, AND ORIGINAL THINKER BUT AS AN ASTUTE SOCIAL COMMENTATOR, A PERSON OF DEEP PSYCHOLOGICAL INSIGHT AND ONE WHO IS UNAFRAID TO SPEAK OR ACT TRUTHFULLY WITH AUTHORITY AND HUMILITY.

I, MYSELF, HAS ATTENDED LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF HIS DISCOURSES AND HAVE BEEN WITH HIM IN MYRIAD SITUATIONS FOR MANY YEARS AND IT SURPRISES ME THAT ANYONE INVOLVED IN A REVIEW OF EVEN A MINUTE PORTION OF THE VAST AMOUNT OF MATERIAL PRODUCED BY RAJNEESH IN THE LAST 25 YEARS COULD FAIL TO RECOGNIZE HIS OUTSTANDING AND EXCEPTIONAL VALUE.

AND I CANNOT BEGIN TO SPEAK OF THE FRUITS HIS WORK HAS PRODUCED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE BENEFICIAL IMPACT OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES OF THE RAJNEESH RELIGION IS STAGGERING AND ITS INFLUENCE HAS ONLY BEGUN TO BE FELT.

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AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN I WOULD
URGE YOU MOST STRONGLY TO GRANT
BHAGWAN SHREE RAJNEESH STATUS AS
A PERMANANT RESIDENT OF THE
U. S. A.

SINCERLY YOURS,
Mark Weill
also known as Swami Devananda