

April 1, 1983

Marvin Groensweg, Director
Public and Diplomatic Liaison
Visa Office, Department of State
Room 813
515 22nd Street
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Groensweg:

Officials of the City of Rajneeshpuram, Oregon, have indicated to this office that concern exists with respect to a festival to be held in that city during July 1983. This festival is said to be of the same order as one held during the summer of 1982 in essentially the same location.

This office was not directly involved in the proceedings a year ago, because under Oregon law authority to permit mass gatherings is a responsibility of local government. However, this office was interested in the event, because several state agencies -- the Oregon State Police, the Health Division of the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality and others -- had official concerns.

Governor Atiyeh expressed neither approval nor disapproval of the event in 1982, and takes the same position with respect to plans for a similar event in 1983. At the same time, it can be said that state agencies found the sponsors of the 1982 event fully cooperative in meeting state regulations governing health, environmental and related concerns, and in maintaining order during the conduct of the proceedings. Sponsors of the event planned for 1983 thus far have maintained a cooperative attitude with state officials in conforming preparations for that event to applicable state laws and regulations.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Oliver
Assistant to the Governor

RWO/sc
cc: Swami Prem Jayananda
bcc: Bob Montgomery