

CONFIDENTIAL

John Williams, Superintendent
Oregon State Police

May 20, 1983

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Assistant to the Governor

Rajneeshpuram

During past weeks, there has been an evident attempt by followers of the Bhagwan to "court" the Governor's Office. My invitation to visit Rajneeshpuram was only part of this.

Last week, Sheela and Jayananda visited my office along with Krishna Deva, Mayor of Rajneeshpuram. They described a "scenario" (that is, a deal) under which the Bhagwan's followers would withdraw from Antelope if the Governor would acquiesce in amendments to the land use bill, to recognize the validity of the incorporation procedures for Rajneeshpuram. I told them at the time I did not have authority to speak for the Governor on this matter, but would bring their suggestion to his attention.

As you may know, the Governor does not respond favorably to offers of this sort. He has described it as an offer by someone who takes away your horse and cow, and -- when you protest -- offers you back your cow as a "compromise."

At any rate, the Governor publicly has declined to endorse the amendment to the bill which the Bhagwan's followers seek. I presume they will not abandon Antelope. More important, however, there has been a distinct change in their attitude. In a telephone conversation today, Jayananda was curt and unfriendly. I expressed the hope we might continue to communicate freely, especially in light of the upcoming festival, but he was noncommittal.

I certainly do not suggest we modify our attitude and behavior toward the residents of Rajneeshpuram in any way. At the same time, you may want to be aware that the leadership of that group is considerably less cordial than formerly.