



STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Governor Atiyeh

DATE: April 26, 1982

FROM: Bob Oliver *BO*

APR 27 1982

Governor Atiyeh

SUBJECT: Rajneesh Puram/Antelope Controversy

Mike Sullivan, District Attorney for Jefferson County, asked the U.S. Department of Justice in Region X to send a mediation team to try to cool emotions arising out of the conflict between the followers of the Bhagwan and residents of Antelope. Region X agreed, and a man named John Mathis of the Department of Justice made preliminary contacts with both sides. It was agreed that a meeting would be held in Sullivan's office on May 6.

During the course of last week, I heard a number of disturbing reports that tempers in Antelope are running high, especially after the recent election on disincorporation. There are said to have been threats to go out to the Big Muddy and shoot up/blow up/burn out the place. Sullivan called Thursday to express concern, and Bob Davis also expressed concern on Friday.

On Friday, I contacted Bob Lamb, who is Mathis' boss. He, too, had been receiving alarming reports and believes the date of the meeting should be advanced. I told him I had not discussed the matter with you, but I was certain you would want everything done to cool the situation as quickly as possible. Lamb indicated the date of the meeting will be advanced. On Monday, Mathis called to say the meeting will be Tuesday evening, April 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jefferson County Courthouse.

Mathis and Lamb believe it would be a good idea if you put out a statement calling for maintenance of law and order. I'm not sure this is quite the time to do that. I'm reasonably certain you will be asked to comment on the results of the meeting when it is held, and that might be a more appropriate occasion.

cc: Gerry Thompson
Denny Miles

*Decision -
Gov not to
make off'l
statement - only
give the attention
the Raj wants. advised
Gov to make general
comments when asked
by someone - but no
off'l statement.*