



STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Governor

FROM: Gerry Thompson

SUBJECT: Rajneesh

DATE: September 17, 1984

Bob Oliver, Colonel Pankratz, Bill Gary and I received a full briefing from John Mathis, federal mediator from the U. S. Department of Justice, Region X.

The feds are watching the situation at Rajneesh closely. They see two issues involved: political and potential violence. It is our feeling that the goal of the Baghwan through Sheela is to gain recognition of political power from state, local and county officials. They feel they have not been properly sanctioned by the Governor and the Attorney General. Their objectives are to obtain what they feel are their constitutional rights through the election process and the increasing of their own population in Oregon. They can economically sustain themselves indefinitely through internal and external resources.

Currently it is estimated they have 400,000 followers from 15-20 countries. Their current effort in Oregon is to increase their population and coincidentally their electors. They can do what they are doing legally and cannot be stopped politically. Sheela and K.D. both stated that they feel the statewide elected officials will turn their backs should there be any violence. In other words, the Governor and Attorney General are promoting violent acts through their own inactions. Sheela and K.D. indicate their plans are to bring in 7,000 new residents this year and approximately 20,000 new residents ultimately.

One of the concerns of the federal mediator is that any violence either at Rajneesh or Antelope will pick up support from all minority communities mostly in Oregon and certainly in other states. This is because they are moving in a very substantial number of minorities, mostly male between the ages of 25-40, coming primarily from New York, D.C. and Florida. They are hard core street people who will obviously have a hard time integrating into Wasco and Jefferson Counties where they are already receiving hostile reception. K.D. and Sheela both state to the media they are ready to sacrifice lives to achieve their political recognition. They believe a theory of conspiracy contrived between the Governor, Dole, Hatfield and the Attorney General. Their request is to meet with the

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Governor and to meet with the Attorney General face to face. When I asked the federal mediator what they wanted to accomplish by the meeting, he clearly stated (1) recognition and (2) a discussion of matters in litigation.

It was the federal mediator's recommendation that the Governor appoint a task force of representatives from Rajneesh, Wasco and Jefferson counties and the state to evaluate the present conditions.

When I asked what expectations of violence the federal mediator had, he indicated it would probably be none at Rajneesh itself. Rajneesh is an extensive range, is well-armed and is protected by natural terrain. In fact, it could be categorized as a small army encampment. If there is to be any violence, it will probably occur in the city of Antelope itself. The street people will be basically housed in Antelope and obviously because of social and cultural differences, integration will be difficult. One major incident precipitated by the ranchers could create bloodshed. It is the belief of the federal mediator what is needed is a joint police force. All involved, including the Rajneeshees, want state police representation. They do not view Wasco county police protection as dependable or respected. The fed mediator worries about possible posse comitatus involvement. Although the federal mediator pressed me for a decision regarding a meeting with the Governor and Sheela and pressed me for the task force decision, and also pressed for joint police protection as well as state police out post, I made no commitment on the basis we all had to sleep on the information we received (This was a three-hour briefing.) In order to offset the potential violence, the federal mediator recommended an Oregon State Police situation at Antelope with a joint police force of Rajneesh peace officers, Jackson County Sheriff and our own state police. He also recommended a task force to develop mutual enforcement plans and requested Oregon State Police develop an emergency response plan. I indicated we would not do anything without express approval by the Governor and asked him in the meantime to keep us informed.

The federal government is establishing a rumor control at Antelope which will be staffed by a Rajneeshee and non-Rajneeshee. They are also asking that there be competent press representation at the city of Antelope in an effort to stop Oregon press sensationalizing the current events.

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The federal mediator also confirmed a recent change in leadership within the last four months. It is their opinion they have gone from a more rational leadership to a more radical leadership. Sheela has stated things were not moving fast enough and their goals were not being achieved on schedule, among which was the takeover of the county and state.

As of today, September 17, the situation continues to heat up. The latest media report was that individuals from Puerto Rico are also being moved into Rajneesh.

Interestingly enough, I also found out over the weekend that Al's ex-wife who is now a full-fledged Rajneeshee, would be leaving Salem to live at the ranch for the next two months. The sole purpose of the move would be to cast her vote as a member of the Rajneeshees in the General Election.

Bob Oliver and I have scheduled a meeting for this afternoon to review the situation with the State Police and Attorney General's office.

Sheela and K.D. have publicly stated and also told the federal mediator that it is the intention to take over the county in this election and by the end of this decade "the state of Oregon will no longer be the state of Oregon, but will be Rajneesh."

Absolute panic exists among our legislators. Ken Jernstedt and ~~Wayne Fairbush~~ ^{Wayne Fairbush} are both thinking about a special session to change the residency provision of our election laws. Bill Bellamy called with panic in his heart about the many busloads of people to be carted into Rajneesh. His concerns were they were mostly black, they were all thugs, young and in good physical shape. I assured Bill we were watching the situation closely.