



Department of State Police

District Five Headquarters
Bend, Oregon
March 31, 1982

APR 2 1982

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Mr. John C. Williams, Superintendent
Department of State Police
Salem, Oregon

Big Muddy Ranch
(Rajneeshpuram)

Dear Sir:

On Friday, March 26, 1982, the writer, accompanied by Lieutenant Paul Lovejoy, Sergeant T.N. Lynn Hillman, III, and Mike Sullivan, Jefferson County District Attorney, visited the Big Muddy Ranch at the invitation of ranch officials. The purpose of this visit was to discuss possible problems that may be encountered with the scheduled religious festival on the ranch June 22 through July 18, 1982, and to explain the Oregon State Police role in law enforcement.

Upon arrival we were met by Sheila Fisher, a public relations officer at the ranch and were later joined by John Shelfer (Swam Prem Jayananda), and his wife, Sheela Silverman, along with other members of their staff.

John Shelfer manages the 64,000 acre ranch for the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh religious sect and his wife, Sheela Silverman, is the spokesman for Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. Both explained that the scheduled Guru Purnima Religious Festival would be attended by approximately 3,000 people who have supported the ranch and love the Bhagwan at a cost of \$2,000 to \$3,000 per person which includes a \$350.00 registration fee. They expect all but 200 to 300 to use public transportation and they will be operating 27 buses to and from points of public transportation arrivals. If permitted by DEQ officials, all participants will be housed in tents on the ranch and fed in existing dining facilities.

The Big Muddy Ranch is located southeast of Antelope, Oregon, generally within the counties of Wasco and Jefferson. After leaving Highway 218 near Antelope it is an 11 mile drive over a county road before arrival at the main ranch area, which is

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located within Wasco County. This county road is so narrow at several locations that two motor vehicles would be unable to pass each other, most curves are blind and the road surface is rough and dusty. This county road continues through the main ranch area ending at Mitchell, Oregon. Just beyond the main ranch area there is a fork in the county road and another goes across a river ford on the John Day and ends in Clarno on Highway 218.

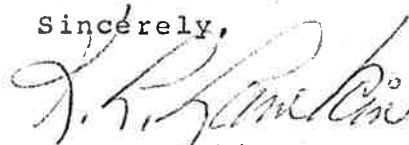
John Shelfer indicated that he has been and will be again in contact with Sheriff Perkins of Jefferson County and Sheriff Brown of Wasco County regarding the employment of off duty and reserve deputies to assist them in traffic and control of trespassers during the festival. He expected no trouble from their guests but felt there could very well be a problem caused by excessive traffic and the curious. The acts of violance from disgruntled citizens was also a possibility. At this time other aspects of our laws, such as the medical examiner's duty to authorize removal of deceased, etc., were also discussed.

Both John Shelfer and Sheela Silverman were advised that we would not be patrolling the county roads into the ranch unless our normal duties took us into that area. As always, we would be in close contact with both Sheriff Perkins and Sheriff Brown and should an emergency arise that required them to request our assistance, that matter would be dealt with at that time. They were further advised that this in no way affected our routine response to any traffic, criminal or game complaint.

From all indications thus far, we can expect an increase in confrontations between individuals from the commune and the general population. With this and the possibility the county road could be blocked, I have asked and received permission from John Shelfer for our pilot to shoot a few practice landings on the Big Muddy Ranch landing strip. Should an emergency exist at any time this may be the only way of getting in and out.

As the festival date draws closer, the need for additional traffic patrols on Highways 97, 197 and 218 in the Antelope area will be assessed and arranged.

Sincerely,



K. L. Lamkin, Major