

JOINT STATEMENT BY
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AND
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State and federal officials today completed the first phase of complex international extradition proceedings against three former disciples of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. Sheela Silverman (Ma Anand Sheela), Diane Ivonne Onang (Ma Anand Puja), and Catherine Jane Elsea (Ma Shanti Bhadra) will be returned to Oregon in the custody of the United States Marshall's Service to face criminal charges.

The United States Attorney's Office and the Oregon Department of Justice have been and will continue to be engaged in a coordinated effort to resolve all pending state and federal criminal matters involving these and associated defendants in a prompt, efficient and just manner. Silverman, Onang and Elsea will be treated like any other criminal defendants awaiting trial in federal and state courts. For the same legal and ethical reasons that constrain the remarks of prosecutors in all criminal cases, neither the United States Attorney's Office nor the Oregon Department of Justice will comment publicly about the pending charges beyond this prepared statement.

By the terms of the extradition, the United States has 30 days to return the defendants to Oregon. For security reasons, neither the United States Attorney nor the Oregon Department of

Justice will comment on the estimated time of arrival of the defendants.

When she arrives in Oregon, Silverman will be a federal prisoner awaiting disposition of felony charges of making false statements to government officers in connection with immigration matters. She also faces an indictment in Wasco County Circuit Court charging attempted murder, assault in the first degree and conspiracy to commit murder against Dr. Swami Devaraj.

When they arrive in Oregon, Onang and Elsea will be in the exclusive custody of the Wasco County Sheriff under state charges which are substantially identical to the attempted murder, assault and conspiracy charges against Silverman in the Devaraj case.

Pursuant to the extradition treaty between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany, the German government has consented to state and federal criminal prosecutions of Silverman, Onang and Elsea only on the charges described above. Although Silverman and Onang both have been indicted on additional state and federal charges, they cannot be arraigned or prosecuted on those additional charges until permission to pursue the additional charges has been obtained from the Federal Republic of Germany. The extradition treaty contains a specific procedure by which the necessary consent can be obtained from German authorities to pursue additional charges. The United

States and the State of Oregon will seek to prosecute all charges against these three defendants which have been or may in the future be handed up by the state and federal grand juries. Accordingly, the United States and the State of Oregon already have begun the process of formally requesting German consent to prosecute the additional indictments handed up to date.

To date, one additional federal indictment has been returned against Silverman and Onang. Onang faces two and Silverman faces three additional state indictments. The additional federal indictment accuses Silverman and Onang of illegal wiretapping. An additional Wasco County indictment charges Silverman and Onang of first and second degree assault against county officials William Hulse and Raymond Matthew and of criminal conspiracy to commit those assaults. Another Wasco County indictment charges Silverman and Onang with a June, 1984 first degree assault against Devaraj and of conspiracy to commit that assault. A third Wasco County indictment charges Silverman with criminal conspiracy, first degree arson and second degree burglary in connection with a fire in the Wasco County Planning Office on January 14, 1985.

State and federal officials intend to prosecute all of the outstanding criminal charges described above. The first step in that process is to seek the permission of the German authorities under Article 22 of the extradition treaty between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The first step in the prosecutions of Silverman, Onang and Elsea once they arrive in Oregon will be their arraignment on the charges that the German authorities already have approved. At the arraignments, the defendants will plead guilty or not guilty and timetables for additional proceedings will be set.