

Ubbergen, 17 July 1983

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I, C.P.A. van Esch, being duly sworn, do depose and say as follows:

Theology is a science which tries to understand on an intellectual level the manifestations of God through history. And of course it is at most concerned with the absolute peaks of religious breaking-through, as it happened in Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed,..... and nowadays Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

In the words of each of those 'diamonds of mankind' the religious dimension of existence reveals very clearly. They are not theologians, but religious phenomena of absolute height. Also Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh speaks of religion in a religious way, and that is the only way to do it. And in a language people of our time can understand and recognize as revelation of religious depth.

I have studied theology and philosophy on the Catholic University of Nijmegen (Holland), and finished in 1971 with a Masters Degree (Theol. Drs). Philosophy of Religion and Eastern Religions were part of my specialization. It was from this interest I got in contact with the books of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. And the difference with all contemporary religious teachers was, that he, biblically spoken, 'seemed to speak with authority'. It was religion itself which spoke through him, not in a traditional manner, but coming out of the roots of existence. From a point where all traditions vanished, and only remains religion as such. And this seems to me the importance of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh that he stands above all traditions which have divided mankind in areas of hostility. That he reveals love as the original dimension of all living beings, and gives advice to make it operational. Only in a meeting of cultural traditions a new mankind can grow. And a real meeting is only possible if one can go to the roots of all traditions.

This is the absolute importance of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh for the whole world: to make men conscious of the love-dimension all people originally belong to. He is a really meeting-point of cultures.

America which wants to go in the frontline of human development, has to be grateful to have such a master on its territory. Only if freedom gets its chance something really new can happen. It is the greatness of America having chosen for freedom. And so this is the only country in the world which can give a real chance to the experiment of Rajneeshpuram, without deriving from its constitutional base. Let it be.

The above is within my personal knowledge, and if called upon as a witness, I would competently testify thereto.

I, Dr L. Hanekroot, attorney  
to the district court of  
's Hertogenbosch, confirm  
herewith the legality of the  
signature of Mr van Esch.

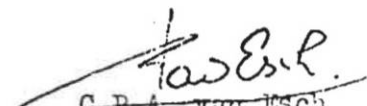
  
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EXHIBIT "A-67"