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July 18th 1983

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am a British journalist of some thirty years' standing, working in newspapers, magazines, television and radio. I am at present chief columnist for The Times [of London] and chief book reviewer for the [Sunday] Observer. I also have a regular programme of extended interviews on BBC Television; among those who have appeared on it are Henry Kissinger, Henry Moore, Dr Jonas Salk, Aaron Copland, Arthur Rubinstein, Krishnamurti, Field-Marshal Lord Carver, Anthony Burgess, Professor Friedrich von Hayek, Vladmir Bukovsky and Leonard Bernstein. I am the author of five books.

I write the above solely in order to establish my credentials; the purpose of this letter is to testify to my experience of Bhagwan Rajneesh. I have spent time at his former ashram in Poona; I have read many of his books and heard his spoken discourses; I have also met and talked with many of his followers. I regard him as an outstanding figure of very great distinction and ability, and a most remarkable and profound thinker and teacher.

I emphasise that I am not a disciple of Bhagwan Rajneesh, nor do I have any connexion with his organisation; I am an observer who has seen and heard him at close quarters, and studied his work, and in that capacity I have come freely and objectively to the Benard Cerin conclusion above.

FROM BERNARD LEVIN