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Nichiren Shoshu Soka Gakkai of America

April 13, 1981

file
Buddhist

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Dole
Assistant for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Mrs. Dole,

Nichiren Shoshu Soka Gakkai of America is a Buddhist religious organization which is headquartered in Santa Monica, California. Under the leadership of our General Director George M. Williams in a period of 20 years, the organization has blossomed to a membership of 238,000. Members are located in every state of the union and come from all walks of life.

Our never ending quest for world peace and the realization of human dignity are among the most cherished goals of the Soka Gakkai. The goals of the Soka Gakkai and its religious teachings go far beyond the boundaries of race, color or creed.

Mr. Williams is presently making every effort to schedule a meeting with President Ronald Reagan in June 1981. He is very anxious to renew his ties with the President and foremost is his desire to bring together two great men, President Ronald Reagan and the President of the Soka Gakkai International Daisaku Ikeda.

Mr. Ikeda is a world religious leader whose life is dedicated to the cause of world peace. In his travels throughout the world he has developed close and friendly ties with the heads of state of many countries, especially with Red China and the Soviet Union. Mr. Ikeda would be more than happy to share his knowledge of these countries with the President and would not hesitate to assist the United States of America in its desire for world peace.

Mr. Daisaku Ikeda will arrive in the United States in early June to attend the Chicago World Peace Culture Festival to be hosted by the Nichiren Shoshu Soka Gakkai of America. If it meets with the President's schedule the date selected for the meeting could fall on any of the following days between June 19 through June 22. However, if these dates should be in conflict with the President's schedule the day, time and place can be at his convenience.

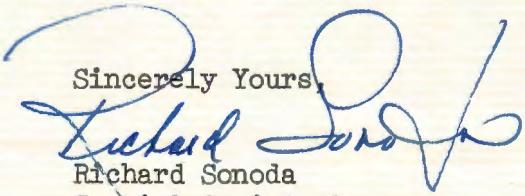
Internationally, the Soka Gakkai in its 50 year history has grown to a membership of 8,000,000 located in more than 90 countries. Members everywhere are looking forward to the meeting of these two great men with eager anticipation. I am well aware that the President's schedule is a very busy one, however, I would deeply appreciate any assistance that your office can give me in making possible this meeting. I look forward to your reply.

APR 16 REC'D

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I have also taken the liberty of sending similar letters to the Honorable Senators from the State of California, Mr. Allen Cranston and Mr. S.I. Hayakawa. I have also written to members of the White House Staff; Mr. Edwin Meese III, Counselor to the President; Mr. Gregory J. Newell, Special Assistant to the President; and Miss Helene Von Damm, Special Assistant to the President.

Sincerely Yours,



Richard Sonoda
Special Assistant
General Director's Office



525 Wilshire Boulevard, Box 1427 • Santa Monica, CA 90406

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Dole
Assistant for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington D.C.
20500

COPY

KURT F. LEIDECKER
306 CAROLINE STREET
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA 22401 U.S.A.

March 22, 1982

Mrs. Kathy McM. Christiansen
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Kathy:

It was a most pleasant surprise to hear you over the phone. Both Mrs Leidecker and myself are happy to know that you are holding high the torch for the Republicans.

I am enclosing some preliminary information on the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. Some more inside information will reach you shortly, for I presume that is what you would like to have.

My files on Hindu organizations are not too well kept because I have been devoting more time to Buddhism. In fact, I am engaged in writing or, rather, expanding the History of the Friends of Buddhism as first published by the U.S. Information Agency as a USIS Feature in 1960, with less narrative and more fact. I just today finished xeroxing the parts "Officers" and "Thirty Years of Wesak (Vaisakha) Celebrations of the Friends of Buddhism." I am sending copies for your files if they are of any use to you.

What I have been interested in recently is the development of Buddhism in the Russian-Mongolian and generally Asian perimeter with regard to policies in the countries concerned. I gave a little talk on "The Peace Offensive of Buddhism" on February 7 last year, barely hinting the seriousness and insidiousness of the Soviet-inspired propaganda and activity. Thinking that you might possibly be interested in this also I have been searching high and low for a copy without success thus far -- a sad admission from one who loves system and order! I know I sent a copy to my friends, Congressman J. Kenneth Robinson about that time intending to expand on the theme with my experience in back when I was in SE Asia.

My Thomas Jefferson Institute for the Study of Religious Freedom takes up much of my time. I was surprised at the number of new members we acquired this year.

Until my next,

Affectionate greetings from both of us,


Kurt F. Leidecker

Notes on the Vishwa Hindu Parishad

The national conference in July in Los Angeles is the 9th they have held in the United States. The previous one was held in Baton Rouge.

It is an international cultural organization with tax exempt status, being primarily religious. Lay people belong to it and run it. Only occasionally members of the clergy, Swamis, address it. There is virtually no ritual and the devotions are mainly private. They claim to be in line with the traditions of the Vedas and have an ecumenical outlook so far as other religions are concerned.

They put the emphasis on children under 16 years of age and organize two week Summer camps for them.

There are many chapters, more than 12 in New York City alone.

Headquarters are at New Delhi

Main office in the USA is at 217 Deerfield Drive, Berlin, Ct. 06037 (Phone: 203-828-4360).

Editorial offices are located at 438 Foote Road, South Glastonbury, Ct. 06073 (Phone: 203-633-3196)

Membership is \$11.00 per annum, including 10 issues of a magazine.

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STRAIGHT WIRE - APRIL 24, 1981

Mr. Brian Nagata
Bishop's Inauguration Committee
Buddhist Churches of America
1710 Octavia Street
San Francisco, California 94109

I am delighted to send greetings on the occasion of inauguration ceremonies for Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America. This historic moment in your church's history marks the first time a native born American will assume the position of Bishop.

I offer my best wishes to Bishop Tsuji as he steps down from that office and send a warm welcome and congratulations to Bishop Yamoka on this landmark event. As titular and religious head of 100,000 American Buddhists affiliated with the True Pure Land Denomination, the Bishop of your Church represents an important segment of the Buddhist community in this country.

RONALD REAGAN

RR:Livingston:lrc
cc: H.vonDamm/D.Livingston/M.Blackwell(FYI)/CF
EVENT: APRIL 25
Requested by Mr. Nagata