

(Phillips)

December 27, 1964

Dear Bernard:

Thanks for your holiday greetings. Anne joins me in wishing you too a happy new year, with many nice surprises and jolly good cheer.

We appreciated the news about Tai San. We had not known definitely who his new suc- excuse me - supporters would be, and we wanted to reach them in order to request a letter acknowledging transfer of sponsorship, so that matters can be tied up with the immigration people. I have accordingly written to the Fischmans, politely requesting such a letter. You did not give anything away; we had a hunch from something Lotte wrote; but it wasn't enough to act upon.

The Roshi knows Tai San, and he apparently feels easiest about being with him when he is in a foreign country. A lot of other polite things are being said, but, as John Lennon my favorite author would say, this is the crutch of the matter.

On looking over the carbon of my letter to you in September, I find I said a good deal more about the reasons for the upset here than I have told even our local members. I'll have to leave it at that. It is no exaggeration to say that the American Tharma, such as it is, is at stake.

I have considered closing down Koko An, as I am sure this fuss will just go on and on, and contrary to the inclinations of some of my erstwhile colleagues, I have little taste for competition and glory. However, Soen Roshi, who has been wonderfully supportive in all this difficulty, wants us to accept an older English-speaking monk he is recommending. We will see how this works out.

The Pupukea project is now pretty uncertain, as we bought the property counting on a fairly broad base of support. Now the base will be narrow indeed, namely Anne and me, as our membership here is mostly college students, in every way besides financial, a very good kind of membership indeed. But financially, at \$155.00 per month, we are holding an inconvenient empty bag.

Well, as you say, it is all very confusing. Never mind; I'm sure it will get worse before it gets better. Love from us both,

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
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