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CPH:llm

August 9, 1965

Dear Bernard:

You will recall that I wrote you March 5 of this year, outlining the visa sponsorship situation of the Diamond Sangha. At that time, we were sponsors of permanent visas for Yasutani Roshi, Satomi San and Tai San. I suggested that we should be relieved of this responsibility since none of the three were planning any longer to locate in Honolulu. Since then, Satomi and Yasutani have cancelled their permanent visas, and Yasutani is presently in the U.S. on a visitor's visa sponsored by someone on the Mainland.

Recently Tai San sent Mr. Sekida a notice of his change of address, enclosing a mimeographed "Zazen Schedule" on the letterhead of The Zen Studies Society, Inc. This letterhead lists Dr. Suzuki, Yasutani Roshi and Nakagawa Roshi as Advisors, and you, Paul Weisz and Tai San as Officers. I gather by this that the organization to sponsor Tai San is now established.

Therefore, I hope that I may request that you send me an official little letter, addressed to me as Chairman of the Diamond Sangha, at my home address, and signed by you or Paul with ~~your~~ title, indicating that The Zen Studies Society has accepted transfer of sponsorship of Eido Shimano, guaranteeing that the organization will assume full responsibility for him under the laws regulating the sponsorship of aliens in the United States on permanent visa status.

When I receive this letter, then I will feel free to notify the Immigration and Naturalization Service that Tai San has transferred. It may be that I could do this without a letter for backup, but I have learned that INS is made up partly of police mentalities, and there might have been at least an accusation of faulty procedures which could reflect on Tai San, or upon us. Eventually, we will want to sponsor another monk or roshi, and we want our file to be completely free of anything questionable. Also, of course, we do not wish to continue liable for someone at long distance.

In his note to Mr. Sekida, Tai San indicated that they might be meeting soon, and by this I wonder if he means that he will be passing through Honolulu on his way to Japan to pick up Yasuko San. If so, I would hope that I might receive your letter before his departure. I feel there are too many variables in any such exit and re-entry, so would like to clear up the matter in advance. I should mention that I wrote to Tai San many times about this visa matter, and on July 1, I suggested that we set October 1 as the deadline for the transfer of sponsorship; thereafter we would be free to notify INS unilaterally. I also indicated to him that I would be willing to hold off until the end of the year, if he wished.

for us

I am very glad that things are shaping up, Bernard. Say hello to Tai San when you see him.

Cordially yours,

Robert Aitken