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Dear Kai San:

Thank you very much for your kind letter. We are grateful that the difficulties here have not caused us to lose your friendship. We will be delighted to see you, and will meet your ship at 8:00 AM the 13th of October. If you have time, please stop over at Keko An until the next boat goes to Japan, two weeks or a month. We would be happy to have you and it would mean a lot to our group. In case you can't stop over, we will arrange a special zazenkai that evening.

As you may imagine, the dreadful events which led to Tai San's departure have caused us a lot of anguish. I made a special trip to consult with Soen Roshi, and since returning the whole matter has been my mind a great deal. However, I have kept completely silent about the nature of the events which caused the disruption, except to Ikena San, who came to Koko An with messages from Tai San after his departu Ikenaga San had the whole story from Tai San's point of view, even the names of the other people involved, so I felt free to discuss it with with him. However, this is a very small Zen world; the reputations a well-being of everyone (including Tai San) are at stake. We feel that it is our responsibility to repeat no part of the story.

I agree that my faults of impatience and anarchism contributed to a strain between Tai San and me. Both he and I recognized our differences, and we were working together to overcome them. However, the events which led to his departure had nothing to do with either Anne me, and were called to my attention by professional people entirely outside Koko An.

Tai San and I have not discussed his departure, either in person or by letter, so although I hear he has decided not to return, I do no know this definitely. When his plans are set, I would hope that he may could let us know. As his sponsor, I need this notice.

Our group continues to meet twice a week, and we are following our regular family routine of morning and evening zazen. We have a nice little group of regulars, plus visitors, and we seem to have made some new friends in the current crop of East-West Center students. None of these attenders know anything about Tai San's departure, and I have only hinted so far that he might transfer.

Please give your friends there in Yellow Springs, particularly Mrs. Fraley, our best regards, and say hellow to our other mutual friends. We regret we were not at home when Fukutani San called to say goodbye. I was off on my trip, and Anne was absent on an errant. Anne did not know until just before she left that Fukutani San was coming, and she was unable to change her arrangements.

We look forward very much to seeing you soon. With Gassho,