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4月20日 ヤハネル [福新文・type・ニシロー]

Matsugaoka Bunko/1375 Yamanouchi/Kamakura, Japan/April 20, 1965

Dear Mr. Yandell, /Thank you very much for your letter of March 22nd. I appreciate your kindness indeed for going through much trouble to keep up the Zen Studies Society on my account. /I was able to contact Mr. Yamaoka, who is visiting Japan just now, and we surveyed the whole situation together. I told him that as long as Dr. Phillips is connected with Yasutani san I would not like to see him do anything further with the Society. I would rather see the Society dissolved altogether than to have it transferred to the Yasutani group. It would be a great pity to see a tax-exempt organization dissolved in this way but perhaps it is all for the best. As to Mr.

Gates and his party, I personally wish to have nothing to do with them./As I believe I wrote you earlier, Yasutani is too indiscriminate or too “grandmotherly” as we say in Japan. Zen is not a mere play of thought or “experience” so called. Zen is really a most serious business. From some reports I get from his associates here in Japan and from America, and also from reading some of his works, I am afraid Yasutani does not fully realize the harm he is doing. His handling of Zen is injurious to its development in America. His way may lead his adherents even to mental aberrations. And I strongly wish to keep him from having [anything] to do with the Society, if possible. Mr. Yamaoka tells me that he will follow my views on this./The only other idea I have had is Dr. S. Hisamatsu. But much depends on what develops during his coming lecture tour or trip to America. As you say, the matter of sponsorship is crucial. I am getting too old to be actively useful for the Society, and perhaps it would be better for me to resign altogether./Thank you for your concern for my hearing. I think I shall be all right just as I am. Thank you very much, however./Father Merton writes a fine and enthusiastic report on my friend Kitaro Nishida’s A Study of Good which was reviewed for their journal. If you care to have a copy of this book, I will send it to you./With all good wishes,/Sincerely yours,