



PONTIFICIA COMMISSIO
JUSTITIA ET PAX

Casa Santa Marta
Vatican City

August 17, 1967

Ref. 67/565

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Luigi Ligutti
Palazzo San Carlo
Citta' del Vaticano

Dear Msgr. Ligutti:

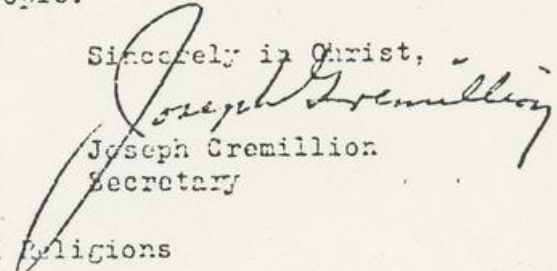
In fulfillment of your request, I have consulted with Father Giuseppe Cuog of the Secretariat for Non Christian Religions, here in the Vatican, concerning the intention of Brother David, O.S.B. Mount Saviour Monastery, New York, in relation to Zen Buddhism.

Father Cuog's reaction was altogether positive. He believes, in general, that Catholics of proper background and intention should undertake such experiences as those planned by Brother David. He believes that it is through such experiences that we will really learn the inner light of other religions, and that such experiences must be undertaken even though there is no full assurance of success in the first attempts at such intercommunication.

From the point of view of the Secretariat of the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace, I must add my own word of support for this experience. Buddhism as a religion is now undergoing the tremendous impact of technology and Western social progress. It is becoming socially conscious. We see this in a telling manner in Vietnam.

In his New Encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, Pope Paul directs that we must undertake dialogues between the diverse cultures of the world. Our Commission is especially concerned with dialogue on social issues with the other religions. I rather doubt that Brother David intends to give too much close attention to the social content of Buddhism. Nevertheless this Pontifical Commission would appreciate any observations, comment and counsel which he might make along these lines at any point during his experience of the next few years. I would appreciate if you as a Member of the Pontifical Commission would communicate this to the proper people.

Sincerely in Christ,


Joseph Cremillion
Secretary

JG/es

cc: Fr. G. Cuog

Secretariat for Non Christian Religions