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October 29, 1982

Kamakura, Japan

Dear Aitken Roshi,

Thank you for your recent letter and the copies of your letters to Sōen Roshi and Maezumi Roshi. Upon receiving your letter I called Shochu Roshi at Ryūtakuji who said that Sōen Roshi had not shown him your letter and that he knew nothing about the situation. We discussed what could be done with Edō Roshi and concluded that from this end nothing could be done. He can't be fired as though he were a member of a firm. I think that the only way he can be removed is if his community there puts him out, which may be the best solution.

If this scandal appears in the newspapers or on TV it will do great damage to the reputation of Zen in American. Yet, even though it may take years, Zen will surely recover its good name. The Buddhist Dharma is not such a weak and powerless thing that it can be destroyed by something like this.

I agree with you that all we can do now is let things follow their natural course.

When my travel plans for next year have been decided, I will let you know.

Warm regards from both of us to you and Anne.

Sincerely,

Kōun Yamada