

Squirrel Mountain Zendo of the North Carolina Zen Center, Inc.
Rt. 5, Box 114
Pittsboro, NC 27312-8509
July 6, 1992

Rev. Joshu Sasaki, Head Abbot of Rinzai-ji, and
The Board of Directors of Rinzai-ji, Inc., and
The Council of Ordained Persons
2505 S. Cimarron St.
Los Angeles, CA 90018

Dear Friends,

After lengthy consideration, I hereby declare independence for myself as a Zen osho from Rinzai-ji.

Among the reasons for this decision:

my objection to the sexual behavior and sexual teaching techniques of the Head Abbot;

my disapproval of the lack of action by the Head Abbot, board of directors or ordained persons of Rinzai-ji to help those who have suffered on account of this behavior;

the lack of regulations in the organization with respect to inappropriate sexual behavior between teachers and students;

the unwillingness of most of the ordained persons of Rinzai-ji to communicate with me and discuss this or any other issue;

the lack of independent thinking which prohibits open discussion; and

the atmosphere of secrecy which contributes to the stultification of free expression.

There are no official ties between the North Carolina Zen Center, Inc. and Rinzai-ji, Inc. NCZC has been and will remain independent.

I continue to be grateful for the positive aspects of my 25 years association with all of you.

With all best wishes for your future,

Kozan Gentei Sandy Stewart