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18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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CHAIRMAN
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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April 15, 1986

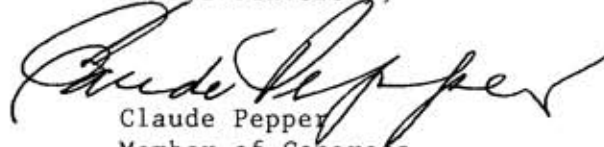
REFER:CO:MA

Dear Mr. Olsen:

Enclosed please find the response of Mr. John C. Lawn of the Drug Enforcement Administration of the Department of Justice. I am forwarding this letter for your information, Mr. Olsen.

With all good wishes, I am

Always sincerely,



Claude Pepper
Member of Congress

Mr. Carl Eric Olsen
43 Star Island
Miami Beach, Florida 33139

Enclosure



U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration

Washington, D.C. 20537

MAR 14 1986

Honorable Claude Pepper
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pepper:

This is in response to your August 20, 1985 inquiry concerning Mr. Carl Eric Olsen and his Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church (CO:MA). I regret that we were unable to give you an earlier response. As you know, Mr. Olsen is an inmate at the Federal Correctional Institution in Tallahassee, Florida. Mr. Olsen has been engaged in litigation with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Justice for some time. One case in the Southern District of Florida has been recently concluded and another has been instituted in the District of Columbia. In view of the pendency of such litigation, we are most reluctant to discuss the substance of Mr. Olsen's correspondence.

I expect that within the next month or two the Drug Enforcement Administration will issue a ruling with respect to Mr. Olsen's petition for an exemption from the operation of the Controlled Substances Act for the use of marijuana by members of the Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church. I will be pleased to provide you with a copy of that ruling as soon as it is issued.

I trust that you will understand our inability to discuss matters under litigation at this time.

Sincerely,

John C. Lawn
Administrator