

# Kulik Tied Close To Krishna Boss

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SANTA ANA — Alexander Kulik is a "personal emissary" to the spiritual leader of the Hare Krishna religious sect and is "very high up" in the movement, according to a source close to Kulik.

"I guess you could call him a personal friend of Prabhupada (the religion's leader)," the source said.

Kulik, who was arrested Oct. 22 allegedly with \$1 million worth of heroin in a car in which he was sleeping, is one of eight defendants in the execution-style slaying of Stephen John Bovan, 36, in October.

Early police reports about the case tied the incident to the Hare Krishna religion — an allegation that was vigorously denied by sect spokesmen at the group's Laguna Beach temple.

Spokesmen for the cult claimed that Kulik was never a Krishna devotee and Kulik's associates had been expelled from the organization for not following the group's straight lifestyle.

But the source asserted that Kulik is so close to A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (the group's leader) that he made an emergency trip to India in September when he learned Prabhupada was seriously ill.

Kulik returned only a day prior to his arrest when he was found sleeping in a parking lot, reportedly suffering from "jet lag." Bovan was killed the same day.

Kulik's link to Hare Krishna was substantiated Tuesday when Laguna Beach police chief Jon Sparks released a letter from Prabhupada to Kulik and several Kulik associates who are principals in the Bovan murder investigation.

The letter is addressed: "Dear Alex, Bob (believed to be Robert Shea, sought by police as a witness), Drdhavrata (believed to be Joseph Shelton Davis, a Kulik partner who also is named as a murder suspect), Gupta (believed to be Joseph G. Fedorowski, another partner also named as a defender in the murder plot), Rabdeva (believed to be Roy Christopher Richard, former president of the Laguna Beach temple and also a murder suspect), and Stan (believed to be Stanton Kieffer, sought by police as a witness)."

The six men were believed to be partners in Prasadam Distributing International (PDI), a Newport Beach firm that reportedly invested large sums of cash in local businesses.

The letter from Prabhupada reads: "Please accept my blessings. I

have received your invitation to the opening of (PDI) . . . Krsna (Krishna) will give you intelligence how to engage in honest, brilliant, glorious work on his behalf. There is no need to engage in anything dishonest. Krsna has given enough money, now earn by honest means."

The rest of the letter outlines a method to distribute Krishna religious books, with the hope that "every respectable person has a full set . . . in his home."

Mukanda Das, ISKCON spokesman in Los Angeles, said the letter "removes the society even further" from any implication of involvement

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in drug smuggling because of the Swami's admonishment to avoid dishonesty.

He said the phrase "Krishna has given enough money" meant the equivalent of "God has provided enough good fortune" and did not refer to any ISKCON subsidy of Prasadam.

Prabhupada closed the letter with "Your ever well-wisher."

The letter was dated Jan. 24, 1977 — two months after Davis, Richard and Fedorowski had been expelled from the Laguna Beach temple, according to sect spokesmen.

A spokesman for the temple said Tuesday that Richard, as head of the temple, had hosted Prabhupada when the religious leader had visited the temple several years ago.

Das said the letter may have been written after the expulsions because the Swami was not aware of them.

Law enforcement officers who have investigated the religion in the last half dozen years said it is not surprising that Kulik is on speaking terms with Prabhupada.

One investigator, who claimed to know Kulik "as well as anybody in Orange County" said it is consistent with Kulik's background that he be deeply involved in ISKCON.

Police have reported that the offices of Prasadam, which is a Hindu word loosely meaning "food that is given to God, Who gives it back as His Mercy," are decorated with Krishna art and artifacts.

A recent edition of "Back to Godhead," an official Krishna publication states that "His Divine Grace (Prabhupada) wishes to thank Alex Kulik, of Laguna Beach, Ca., for his generous donation of \$25,000."

Kulik is known to have made several such large donations to the Krishna movement, several sources in various police departments have claimed.