

Personal statement from Henry Allison regarding the death of Herbert Marcuse

July 30, 1979

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The attached statement was issued by the Department of Philosophy at the University of California, San Diego upon learning of the death of Dr. Herbert Marcuse.

The current chairman of the department is Dr. Henry E. Allison. The spelling of the last name of the two stepsons is correct in that Michael Newman has Americanized his from the traditional German spelling,

As soon as funeral plans are set in this country I will let you know.

Paul W. West - Director of Public Information Office

The University community was greatly saddened to hear of the passing of Professor Herbert Marcuse. Dr. Marcuse made many significant contributions during his lifetime and his colleagues in philosophy and the academic community in general will miss his presence.

William D. McElroy - Chancellor University of California, San Diego

July 30th.

Personal Statement:

Herbert Marcuse died in Germany of an illness following a stroke he had suffered two weeks ago. Most of his family was at his bedside as he peacefully died Sunday afternoon. He had arrived in Germany in mid-May to begin his annual summer vacation/lecture tour, but he became ill before he could begin his lectures.

There will be a brief service in Germany at 5.00 p.m. today, and he will be brought back to San Diego in the near future. Funeral plans are pending. He is survived by his third wife, Erica Sherover, his son Peter, and his two stepsons, Tom Neumann, and Michael Newman, and five grandchildren.

Official Statement from the Chairman of Philosophy.

The Department of Philosophy mourns the passing of its colleague Herbert Marcuse. He was not only the intellectual leader of the New Left, but also one of the giants of 20th century thought. The last survivor of the three philosopher founders of the Frankfurt School, his work contained an original synthesis of the thought of Hegel, Marx, Freud and existentialism, and was addressed to the burning social and spiritual problems of the day. His particular concern was with the question of human liberation. His most influential works include Reason and Revolution, which dealt with the relationship between Hegel and Marx; One Dimensional Man which has become the standard term for the malaise of modern man in a technological world, Eros and Civilization; in which he dealt with the possibility of using some of the pessimistic insights of Freud as the basis of a philosophy of human

liberation; Soviet Marxism, which attacked the claim of the Soviets to be the true guardians of Marxist philosophy; and Critique of Pure Tolerance, which criticised the liberal idea of tolerance as an absolute value. Although he had officially retired from teaching at UCSD in 1970, he remained vigorous to the end as writer, lecturer, colleague, director of doctoral dissertations, and sometimes teacher of tutorials and small seminars. His last book, the Aesthetic Dimension published in 1978, developed a critique of Marxist aesthetics. In the spring of this year he delivered a Memorial Lecture to the UCSD community on the work of Theodor Adorno. He also continued to be politically active, addressing audiences both on and off the campus. The Department feels it appropriate that a Festschrift dedicated to Herbert Marcuse, which was published in 1967, should be called The Critical Spirit.

Henry E. Allison

(July 30, 1979)