

BRITISH NUCLEAR TESTS VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Secretary Miss C. Ferguson

KMcG/CF

Committee Advisers:

Professor Michael Mune.

Dr David Robertson

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Pitcairrie House
East Bay Duncannon
Argyll
Tel Duncannon 4122Her Majesty The Queen,
Buckingham Palace,
London S.W.1.

12th February 1985.

Your Majesty,

I have been prevailed upon by the British Nuclear Tests Veterans Association to write to you to express our deepest concern for the Ministry of Defence's constant refusal to acknowledge the suffering caused to British servicemen as a consequence of the A-bomb and H-bomb tests carried out in the 1950s and 1960s when Chiefs of Staff recommended that men should be exposed to these nuclear blasts so that the effects on living human beings could be established. The enclosed 1953 Top Secret document will bear witness to this as will the individuals (those who are still living) who were exposed without protective clothing in accordance with the Chiefs' recommendation.

Your Majesty will also be aware of the testimony of Lord Penney at the current hearings of the Australian Royal Commission and will note that the instrumentation was far from satisfactory, a doctor's report on contamination some 1,500 - 2000 miles inland in Australia was deleted and that in addition to Lord Penney's 'forgetfulness' the Commission has expressed its displeasure and surprise at the government's secrecy and withholding of information. The British Tests Veterans are only too well aware of the reasons behind this as it has become increasingly obvious that the government has much to hide. Servicemen's records are incorrect and inadequate and information is not forthcoming. There has been, we fear, as massive deceit and before the reputation of this country for which we served is dragged to its lowest we would urge Your Majesty to instruct the Prime Minister and the current Ministry of Defence to abandon its deceit and tell the truth.

The British people are not so naive (as they have recently illustrated in the Ponting case) that they will be fooled or ridden over roughshod by some governmental department. Lives have been needlessly and criminally sacrificed for a cause which will never have any 'winner' and doubly criminal is the fact that Your Majesty's subjects - i.e. the Chiefs of Staff, Scientists and Government Officials of the time can not claim to have been innocent of the effects since these were clearly detailed for them both by the US Chiefs of Staff in 1947 and by the Medical Research Council also in 1947. There is documentary evidence to substantiate this and can be supplied. Countryman has sacrificed countryman and confidence has been betrayed in the government's integrity. We demand that there should be no more as from now.

Criticism has been levelled against the government's MRPB study; this does not satisfy the veterans' requests for a medical assessment of their problems; a morbidity study is too late. I am certain the irony will not escape you.

Widows, dying orphans and deformed children (displaying the same effects as those in the Hiroshima research studios) will never accept the bland insulting statement by your Ministry of Defence that 'NO One Suffered.' They have suffered - they have died in many cases ; - they are suffering today and will be suffering for generations to come if the scientists' worst fears and predictions are recognised.

For us this time has arrived. . . For the United States it arrived a little earlier and both the States and Canada have had to make reparation even though in the initial stages for the personal and environmental devastation they have wrought.

For how much longer does Your Majesty's Defence Department plan to go on deceiving and pretending. Your subjects appeal to you to intervene on their behalf.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth McGinley

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The Defence Services Secretary

is Commanded by Her Majesty The Queen
to acknowledge the receipt of Mr McGinley's
letter which has been referred to the
Ministry of Defence.

18th February 1985