



Air Force Association

1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22209-1198 (703) 247-5800
An Independent Non Profit Aerospace Organization

April 8, 1994

Memorandum

TO: Ron Stroman, B-372 RHOB
Majority Staff Director

Marty Morgan, B-350A
Minority Staff Director

House Government Operations Subcommittee on
Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations

FROM: Stephen Aubin
AFA Director of Communications *SA*

SUBJECT: Analysis of Air & Space Museum Script for its planned
1995 Exhibit, "The Crossroads: The End of World War II,
the Atomic Bomb and the Origins of the Cold War."

I have attached the analysis that you requested of the 559-
page script, dated January 12, 1994, which we left with you this
past Tuesday. Since our meeting, we have been told by the Air &
Space Museum that this is indeed the most current script and that
the Museum's leadership stands by its contents.

The meticulous analysis completed by the author of our
original report, "The Smithsonian and the Enola Gay," dated March
15, 1994, further confirms our previous conclusions.

As we stated during our meeting, our main concern is
balance, context, and fairness. After reviewing our findings in
this analysis, I think you will agree that this script is
seriously flawed as it now stands.

We will be providing you with more material next week on the
chronology of events with respect to AFA's involvement in this
issue.



Air Force Association

1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22209-1198 (703) 247-5800
An Independent Non Profit Aerospace Organization

April 15, 1994

Memorandum

TO: Ron Stroman, B-372 RHOB
Majority Staff Director

Marty Morgan, B-350A
Minority Staff Director

House Government Operations Subcommittee on
Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations

FROM: Stephen Aubin *SPA*
AFA Director of Communications

SUBJECT: Chronology of Air Force Association Contact with Air
and Space Museum Officials

This follows the script analysis we sent to you last Friday, April 8. As we stated in our April 5 meeting, we first learned of a potential problem with the Enola Gay exhibit last August, when a veteran B-29 pilot contacted our magazine editor-in-chief, John Correll, about the exhibit.

At that time, John Correll approached the matter as a journalist would. He was skeptical. In a memorandum to AFA Executive Director Monroe Hatch, dated August 10, 1993, Correll wrote, "My quick take is that the Air & Space Museum isn't quite as guilty as it's said to be, but I'll have a more informed opinion later." It was not long before he had an opportunity to review the matter in detail.

On August 20, Monroe Hatch spoke to Air and Space Museum Director Martin Harwit to inquire about the exhibit. After that conversation, Harwit wrote Hatch and forwarded the most recent planning document for the exhibit "for your critique and suggestions." This began a constructive dialogue that continues to this day. On September 10, 1993, Hatch responded by letter, expressing AFA's concerns and making broad recommendations on how the Enola Gay exhibit could be restructured to reflect greater balance. (I have enclosed that correspondence for your review.)

Here are the main highlights of the exchanges that followed:

* November 23, 1993: Hatch and Correll met with Smithsonian officials over lunch. Harwit, Tom Crouch, chairman of the Aeronautics Dept., and Michael Neufeld, curator of the Enola Gay exhibit, attended. Correll and Hatch continued to state that the concept for the exhibit is not balanced, and did not provide adequate background information or context on the decision to drop the atomic bomb. The museum officials countered that the exhibit was balanced. At the conclusion of the lunch, they provided a tentative floor plan for the exhibit (enclosed) and said the script would be ready in January (a copy of which we provided you).

* In early December, Correll began seriously researching magazine pieces on the Air and Space Museum's treatment of the Enola Gay and on the history of the Enola Gay mission.

* December 16, 1993: Harwit wrote Hatch and offered the opportunity for Hatch to present his views in a short video clip that would be included among other viewpoints in the final section of the exhibit.

* On January 5, 1994, Hatch gave a positive response and provided AFA's Communications Department as the point of contact to work out details. Hatch also expressed his continuing concern over the balance and perspective of the exhibit.

* On January 31, 1994, Harwit forwarded Hatch an advance copy of the entire script and said he was pleased that Hatch would participate in the video portion of the exhibit.

* In January, Correll decided that there was so much material on the subject that, besides the shorter versions in the form of magazine articles, a lengthier special report could be assembled and distributed.

* On February 8, 1994, Correll interviewed Harwit for the magazine article he was writing on the Air and Space Museum's treatment of the Enola Gay exhibit.

* On March 15, 1994, AFA released the special report titled "The Smithsonian and the Enola Gay," in advance of the publication of the April issue of AIR FORCE Magazine. The report was distributed to the media, staff and members of Congress with an interest in Smithsonian programs, and to AFA's grass roots leadership.

* On March 22, 1994, AIR FORCE Magazine accepted a letter to the editor from Harwit responding to the special report and derivative magazine piece on the exhibit. Harwit had been provided with an advance copy of the report and a facsimile of the forthcoming magazine articles. The Magazine extended its normal deadline to be able to include Harwit's letter in its May issue.

* On or about April 1, 1994, the April issue of AIR FORCE Magazine appeared (circ. approx 210,000). It contained the article "War Stories at Air and Space" and "The Decision that Launched the Enola Gay."

* April 6 - present: Continuing contact between Harwit and Hatch. Harwit acknowledges that the exhibit could be controversial but defends the script and current plans for the exhibit. Hatch continues to be critical of an emotional exhibit that lacks historical context and balance. Parties essentially agree to disagree.

To the best of our collective recollection, these are the major milestones from our point of view. What we are left with can be summed up as follows:

The Air Force Association has made every effort to provide constructive input to the Air and Space Museum. AFA represents the many veterans who have contacted us before and after the publication of our materials. Yet even after our many suggestions and the expression of our concerns and those of veterans during the latter part of 1993, the January 12, 1994 Air and Space Museum script reflects only the most cosmetic changes in response to these concerns.

As you can see from the script analysis we sent you, a few oblique references to Japanese brutality and aggression, with little or no graphic support, go nowhere toward balancing the presentation of a very complex event in the history of World War II.

If you have further questions, please contact me, Ken Goss, or John Correll.