



Air Force Association

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

April 4, 1994

Mr. Ed Bolen
Legislative Director
Office of Senator Nancy Kassebaum
Russell Building 302
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ed:

I am writing to give you some information on the latest chapter in the Enola Gay/Smithsonian battle.

You may have seen Dr. Martin Harwit's response to the Washington Times clip on our Special Report, which I have enclosed. In it, Dr. Harwit suggests that the Air and Space Museum has been wrongfully criticized for its planned 1995 exhibit, "The Crossroads: The End of World War II, the Atomic Bomb and the Origins of the Cold War."

I think you will agree that the 559-page script for the exhibit tells quite a different story. As I indicated in my letter to John McCaslin, the few references to Japanese aggression and atrocities pale next to the treatment of the U.S. role in dropping the atomic bomb and other "aggressive" actions. Note especially the use of photos and graphics; they will tell the story to the majority of visitors to the exhibit.

Dr. Harwit's so-called balance is a slap in the face to all the Americans who fought in World War II and especially to the memory of those who died for freedom.

We greatly appreciated Senator Kassebaum's letter to Secretary Adams. Thanks again for all your help and your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Aubin
Director of Communications

(703) 247-5850

NANCY LANDON KASSEBAUM
KANSAS

COMMITTEES:
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1602

March 30, 1994

Mr. Robert McCormick Adams
Secretary
Smithsonian Institution
Smithsonian Institution Building
Washington, D.C. 20560

Dear Mr. Adams:

It has come to my attention that a number of B-29 veterans and Air Force organizations are unhappy with the Smithsonian Institution Air and Space Museum's planned 1995 exhibition of the Enola Gay. For 44 years, the Smithsonian has been in possession of the historic plane, and in that time is never been properly and prominently displayed. It seems a travesty that when the Enola Gay is finally exhibited, it will be in a manner that many veterans find objectionable.

In order to resolve this situation, I suggest the famed B-29 be displayed with understanding and pride in another museum. Any one of three Kansas museums--the Kansas Aviation Museum at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, the Combat Air Museum at Forbes Field in Topeka, and the Liberal Air Museum in Liberal--would be ideal for showcasing the Enola Gay.

Kansas is centrally located in the United States and has a rich aviation history. During World War II, several B-29 training bases were located in the state. In fact, Brigadier General Paul W. Tibbets, the pilot of the Enola Gay, first flew in a B-29 at the Boeing plant in Wichita, Kansas.

As the home state of Amelia Earhart, Walter Beech, Clyde Cessna, and other aviation pioneers, Kansas has a well earned reputation as the "Air Capitol of the World." I believe it would be an appropriate home for the plane which helped save Allied lives by obviating the need for a land invasion of Japan and bringing an end to World War II.

I would appreciate knowing your thoughts on this matter and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Warmest regards,


Nancy Landon Kassebaum
United States Senator

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