



Air Force Association

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An Independent Non Profit Aerospace Organization

MONROE W. HATCH, JR.
Executive Director

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Dr. Martin Harwit
Director
National Air and Space Museum
The Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC 20560

Dear Martin:


At our meeting last Wednesday, I told you I would respond by letter. I was disappointed with the meeting, primarily because the briefing Dr. Neufeld gave about the structure of the exhibit was essentially the same descriptive material you gave me last Fall. I looked back at my letter to you dated September 12, 1993, and found most of my comments then are appropriate today. The exhibit still lacks balance and context. The title has been changed to "The Last Act - The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II," but it still retains its very emotional focus in section 400, "Ground Zero: Hiroshima and Nagasaki." You can't give visitors to the museum and students of history a balanced perspective of World War II if you only show the "last act."

You have long lists of those you have consulted with, including your advisory committee, military historians, your "Tiger Team" and even the Air Force Association and other veterans groups. Yet, the results of these efforts include relatively few script changes, and the structural exhibition plans have not changed very much at all. I don't believe the problems can be corrected without starting over again on several sections.

When I was departing, you gave me a copy of your article, "Enola Gay and a Nation's Memories," scheduled for publication in the Air & Space magazine's August/September 1994 issue. When AIR FORCE Magazine published our perspective last April, you asked and I agreed that your response letter to the editor of AIR FORCE Magazine would be published in full in the next edition of the magazine. It was. Now, I ask for the same courtesy and am enclosing a copy of my response to your article.

Martin, I still believe it is possible to produce an accurate and balanced exhibit that focuses on the end of World War II.

Sincerely,


Monroe W. Hatch, Jr.
General, USAF (Ret.)