



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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MO 22/7(A)

5th December 1983

Dear George

"THE DAY AFTER".

I have now had an opportunity to see the film "The Day After". In my view its content and political direction provide an unbalanced portrayal of the role of nuclear weapons in deterrence. Nuclear deterrence is designed to prevent - and in fact has prevented for 40 years - events of the kind depicted in the film from ever happening in Europe.

I understand that Yorkshire Television have offered me the chance to take part in a discussion before an invited audience after the film. Those taking part will no doubt represent the spectrum of opinion on the issues raised in the film; and discussion of this sort will not balance the viewpoint of the film itself. I should therefore be grateful for your agreement that I should be given an opportunity to be interviewed immediately after the film has been shown next Saturday evening to present the Government's case and to provide a proper balance on this important issue.

yes Sir

Michael Heseltine

Lord Thomson of Monifieth KT PC



INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

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THE RT. HON. THE LORD THOMSON OF MONIFIETH, K T.
Chairman

7th December 1983

22/7(A)

Dear Michael,

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Thank you for your letter of 5th December about the discussion programme to follow the transmission of "The Day After" on Saturday, 10th December.

I can assure you that I and my IBA colleagues are wholly committed to seeing that the treatment of discussion on nuclear strategy is conducted on a properly impartial basis, in accordance with the general rules of public broadcasting.

Yorkshire Television's invitation to you to take part in Saturday's programme was extended to you through your Department's officials last Wednesday, 30th November. I am sorry if there has been any misunderstanding. It was always Yorkshire's intention that you should be given the first opportunity to contribute immediately following "The Day After" and they propose a separate interview with you to be conducted by Robert Kee. This could be done either in Leeds or in another studio and would then be followed by a general studio discussion in which Yorkshire would hope you might play a part. You may on the other hand wish simply to be interviewed and then leave the studio. If so, there would be no suggestion that you had then abandoned the discussion.

Amongst other contributors who have been invited are Denis Healey, Robert MacNamara, General Rogers and Joan Ruddock.

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I believe that Yorkshire Television's proposals will meet the IBA's requirements for due impartiality and also meet your own concerns that the Government's case should be fully presented.

Yours sincerely,
Leare.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP,
Secretary of State for Defence,
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB.