



## Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

The Rt. Hon The Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean  
House of Lords  
Westminster  
SW1 OPW

17th April 2001

*Dear Lady Symons,*

I have now had time to have a proper look at your letter dated 22nd March, and I find it not so much disappointing as absurd. This is for various reasons but mainly because you seem unable to grasp what we are arguing about.

The gravamen of my letter of 12th February is that you have not answered the Question I put down (HL 354). This is a matter of the English language and has nothing to do with Defence. I am seeking a remedy through official channels; and you will hear more later.

In the meantime I am bound to make the following points arising from your reply:

- a. You assert that you do not agree that the (only) two possible explanations for what actually happened, and was reported by the Deputy Commander at the base at the time, but although I asked you to say why, you did not in the PQ you have not done so.
- b. You assert that your Department has no reason to disagree with the judgement which was published at the time, that the events were of no Defence interest. But over the past 20 years a wealth of new evidence has been uncovered by serious, diligent, and experienced investigators. At least half a dozen books have been published about the incident, one of them by one of the US armed men who took part at the time. If, indeed, your Ministry has taken no steps to re-open the alleged military investigation at the time, that would amount to gross dereliction of duty. But I know that your assertion is simply untrue.

**Continued:**



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c. Are you personally aware of very recent disclosures by a former prison officer at Hollesley about the apparently unauthorised removal of certain pages of records covering the time of the incident? If not, why not? I and a great many others are privy to this astounding new evidence. Has it been tested and accounted for in your Ministry? If not why ever not? Do you genuinely believe that this does not matter?

I suggest that all this, and there is a great deal more, now in the public domain which makes it beyond any possible doubt that the incident most certainly was of considerable Defence interest, and it is absurd of you to pretend otherwise.

But my Question has not been answered and I have a right to an Answer, and you have the duty of providing it. I might have supposed that my former appointments and track record since would have entitled me to rather more intelligent consideration, if you had been treating the matter as seriously as you should.

*Yours sincerely,  
Hui-Martin.*