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14.05.07

Dear Mr. Smith.

I have followed your media interviews over the last 24 hours, including the *Heaven and Earth* programme. Your blatant disregard for the truth with respect to the *Panorama* episode being produced on the Church of Scientology is appalling.

Many of the points that you raised in your media interviews were addressed in the extensive correspondence with Mr. Entwistle and were entirely ignored by him and other executives at the BBC. We advised Mr. Entwistle that we had documentation showing that your *Panorama* team had been in collusion with the picketers and had in fact been in touch with them almost four months before the picket occurred. We also advised him of the effects of the picket, including inciting religious hatred. Threatening e-mails were received by the London Church the same day of the picket that your reporters filmed. Your statements cannot change the facts.

Unlike you and Mr. Sweeney, we highlighted all of the points included in our documentary in our correspondence (see letter to Mr. Entwistle dated 25th April 07). We also offered on numerous occasions to show appropriate executives of the BBC the documentary footage that we had put together. Each and every person we contacted in this regard absolutely refused to look at this. On the 3rd of May we again offered the opportunity to see the documentary and a chance to respond. Indeed, I spent much of the day at the BBC Media Centre and White City trying to meet with BBC executives. I was consistently referred to Mr. Entwistle, and it was made clear through his Personal Assistant that he had no intention of meeting or reviewing the documentary. Both Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Entwistle have refused to respond to the points raised in the correspondence.

I will specifically address each of the false statements being forwarded in your interviews:

...

You have repeated Mr. Sweeney's avowed reason for losing his temper in the US: "he fell into a trap ... he'd been watching a 90minute exhibition of supposedly proving that psychiatry is a Nazi science .. I feel he was baited, he lost it." - This is false and needs to be corrected. John Sweeney knew what the Exhibition was about as he had been given a DVD explaining it nearly a week before. It was a site he specifically requested to tour. He carried on for another half hour with the tour, after his psychotic break, and was cheerful when he left. After returning to the UK a week later, he tried to enter into the same exhibit touring in the UK. All of this is on video.

Mr. Sweeney initially stated the excuse for his outburst was: "'When I was Younger, I was in a play called 'Oh What a Lovely war'" and I played a sergeant major and I had to get discipline in and I had to raise my voice. And what I was doing was because Tommy had interrupted me, I was showing Tommy that my voice was louder than his voice." This is also on video.

Your description of the content of the exhibition is also false. There are no pictures of "needles being poked into children's eyes." This is footage taken from psychiatric and medical video archives that we uncovered and are now making available to the public. Hundreds of thousands of people have toured through this exhibition from all over the world and no one has ever voiced anything similar to Mr. Sweeney's latest "excuse" for his breakdown.

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You refer to quotes from court cases that occurred before the Panorama program of 20 years ago. You state in a recent letter to Carter Ruck that you will use the dates of these quotes so that it is clear when these statements were made, but you have not done so in any of the interviews you have done to date. These are the same discredited sources that were referred to in the Panorama program in 1987.

Since 15 April we have repeatedly requested the allegations being raised in the program. To date we *still* do not have a full list. Mr. Sweeney's latest response on the BBC website brings up still new allegations.

Please retract your false and inflammatory statements that have been quoted in the media, with utter disregard for the documented facts.

Sincerely,
Mike Rinder

Cc: Mark Thompson
Mark Byford
David Jordan
Peter Fincham
George Entwistle