
Letter to the Editor

Chernobyl, the KGB, anti-nuclear media

Dear Sirs:

I am informed that in one of your journals [*EIR* Vol. 13, No. 22, May 30, 1986, page 9], I am quoted as saying that Mr. Stuart Diamond, a correspondent with the *New York Times*, is a KGB agent.

I categorically state that I do not now, nor ever have, believed Mr. Diamond to be a KGB agent. If I had any evidence of this, which I do not, I would have brought it to the attention of the appropriate U.S. government authorities and not to your journal.

On the contrary, I believe Mr. Diamond to be an honest and conscientious reporter, although I was surprised and a little disappointed by his juxtaposition, in his May 19th *New York Times* article, of my remarks to those of others. This led many people worldwide to believe that I had changed my opinion on the importance and probable effectiveness of U.S. reactor containments, and the ineffectiveness of the Chernobyl confinement in most serious accident scenarios.

In the last five weeks I have talked to a hundred or so columnists and reporters from a variety of journals and newspapers; in most cases the conversation lasted for nearly half an hour while I attempted to explain the technical and scientific details of reactor safety in general and the Chernobyl tragedy in particular. If any of my remarks to any of these reporters led to this, or any other, misunderstanding I apologize to your readers. I also apologize unreservedly to Mr. Stuart Diamond for any problems this unjustified accusation may have caused him.

Finally, I am appalled by attempts to make political capital out of human tragedy. We should send our condolences to those who are sick and to families of those who have died. We can laud the bravery and attention to duty, of those firemen who in the vain attempt to put out the fire and contain the accident, knowingly exposed themselves to the radiation that took their lives. Let us all learn from the accident what we can so that it will not be repeated either in the USA or in the Soviet Union.

Yours sincerely,

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The author replies

I do not know if *New York Times* reporter Stuart Diamond is a KGB agent or not. He certainly shares with the Soviets a commitment to paralyze this nation's industry and advanced science.

I do know, however, that Professor Wilson made the statement I quoted about Stuart Diamond in a tape-recorded interview May 20, and that he made it in anger at having his words deliberately twisted by Diamond. Wilson said it in the context of a discussion of how some Soviet policy-makers would be pleased if the Chernobyl accident led to a shutdown of nuclear power in the West.

In a May 19 front-page article Stuart Diamond deliberately and maliciously distorted what several nuclear experts told him about the Chernobyl safety systems, in order to make the case that these Soviet systems were similar to those used in U.S. nuclear reactors, and that therefore U.S. nuclear plants are not safe. His article appeared on the same day that Ralph Nader's Public Citizen group and the Union of Concerned Scientists had a full-page anti-nuclear fundraising ad in the *New York Times*, using the same formulations Diamond used on page one in his news story.

While the victims of the Chernobyl disaster deserve our sympathy and compassion, a reporter like Stuart Diamond—who lies and dissembles for his own political purposes—does not. While we may also have compassion for the pro-nuclear spokesmen in this country who are intimidated by the well-funded and litigious anti-nuclear media mafia, as a nation we cannot tolerate such an intimidation to suppress the voice of truth.

I do not know what kind of pressure Stuart Diamond exerted on Professor Wilson. I do know that at the meeting of the European Nuclear Society in Geneva the week of June 2, the anti-nuclear groups created an atmosphere of intimidation and terror. One of the nuclear safety experts whose statements were distorted by Stuart Diamond told me a chilling story to make this point. A group of these anti-nuclear thugs cornered a prominent German nuclear scientist on the street in Geneva and beat him up.

Those attending the Geneva meeting, in particular the Germans, talked about this anti-nuclear gangsterism, and recalled how similar terror tactics in the 1920s and 1930s were used to bring the Nazis to power. The lesson should be clear: The route to victory over fascism is not appeasement.

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