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Mr John Allman
Christians Against Mental Slavery
98 High St
Knaresborough
North Yorkshire
HG5 8HN

14 October 2003

Dear Mr Allman,

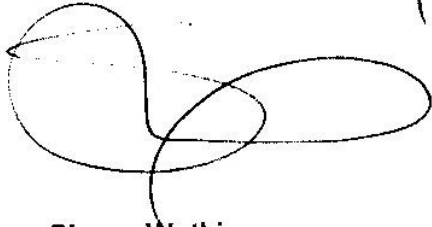
Thank you for your letter of 10 October. You open by, again, calling upon the British Government to declare that "the technological monitoring or influence of human thought non-consensually amounts to a crime against humanity". You conclude by acknowledging that legislation could provide for such monitoring in the case of hostage takers. You felt hostage takers "can be deemed, by their conduct, to have consented to ... monitoring". But hostage takers, like all suspects, still have human rights. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act provides for the authorisation of intrusive surveillance even in a hostage-taking situation.

You then went on to envisage that airline passengers would accept to their thoughts being monitored temporarily by virtue of "contractual consent incorporated into the *small print* on the backs of airline tickets" (my emphasis). You seem to suggest that examination of electroencephalogram data of all passengers to discern the sinister intentions of a potential hijacker would be a positive thing – on the basis of some small print, without which it would be a crime against humanity "*in all circumstances*" (your emphasis). That's quite a leap for some small print to achieve.

With your point about screening airline passengers, you are conceding that the application of thought monitoring technology – if it were viable – *may* come to have a lawful and necessary place in democratic society. That is both with consent (your airline passenger, are they going to hijack the plane?) and without it (your hostage taker, are they going to give up soon?). Currently we are very far removed from that prospect.

I realise you consider that prospect is with us now. You make your point about compensation of current day victims and refer in your letter to "anecdotal evidence a-plenty". Equally I have read your article "*Thought Police' victims denied information*" on the Internet, and read some of the comments posted about that article. You have offered sight of material corroborating "aspects of the story". If you want to send copies of that material to me, please do.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal stroke and a vertical stroke that loops back to the start.

Simon Watkin
Covert Investigation Policy Team
Intelligence and Security Liaison Unit