***[10.37] My name is Mike Cunningham***

***I am speaking as an Englishman, purely on my own behalf.***

***I object to the proposed development***

***I am happy to answer questions on my statement***

**I begin with a single line quotation from Lamentations :-**

***"For these I weep. Streams of tears flow from my eyes***

***because of the destruction of my people."***

**I speak today on a proposal , by an ex-Prime Minister; for a**

**Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre. The proposal,**

**turned flat down by a prescient Westminster City Council, was**

**for the construction to be built inside the Victoria Tower**

**Gardens: which is a Grade II-listed park and forms a small**

**triangular green space next to Westminster Abbey and the**

**Houses of Parliament - collectively designated as a World**

**Heritage Site. As an aside, some of the famed plane trees**

**which circle the present Park may probably be sacrificed. A**

**second sacrifice would be the loss of a fair stretch of the**

**recreational space used and enjoyed by so many, but this**

**loss was dismissed by the Architect Sir David Adjaye with the**

**words *“Disrupting the pleasure of being in a park is the key:***

***the thinking.”***

**My views on this proposal are many and varied, but the major**

**one is simply one of logistics; and, simply put states the**

**blindingly obvious: *You would have to travel to London to see***

***the Memorial.* I used to work in London, along with many**

**thousands more: but literally millions will never ever dream of**

**travelling to the Capital, and indeed why should they? The**

**vast majority of Brits prefer going overseas for holiday**

**relaxation, in normal times at least: so why travel down, in the**

**same weather as they get where they live, to a City which**

**might house a reminder of the greatest Crime ever recorded?**

**Given that the proposed Memorial would, of necessity, limit**

**the numbers of visitors; partially because of, in this day and**

**age, virus restrictions; but also, and unfortunately mainly,**

**heavy security precautions against a Terrorist Threat;**

**numerical access will be very limited. The numbers, just on a**

**traffic basis alone; just do not add up.**

**It will become, because of its prime position, if approved and**

**built, just another Tourist Location. Imagine, members of this**

**Inquiry, a Memorial Site and an underground Hall dedicated to**

**the Remembrance of the murdered Six Million; a European**

**version of ‘Yad Vashem’ becoming just another ‘tick-box’**

**trophy for tourists.**

**When I was but thirteen years old, our History teacher told we**

**schoolboys that we should read one book, and one book only,**

**if we were to understand the greatest War ever fought. He told**

**us that the Battles; of Kursk, of Britain, at Alamein and**

**Falaise; and of the massacres such as Oradour-sur-Glane and**

**Babi-Yar could only be viewed in true perspective if we also**

**understood the true history of the fall of the Nazi Reich: and**

**this would and could be viewed in one book: namely the**

**Scourge of the Swastika, by Lord Russell of Liverpool. As I**

**turned the pages of that awful book, as I read the pages of**

**eye-witness descriptions of the truth that Jews were really**

**viewed by the Nazis as sub-human; as I viewed the**

**photograph of the British-manned bulldozer pushing that pile**

**of corpses towards a trench; of the dumping-grounds, spread**

**with human skeletons, it was only then that I realised what,**

**unknowingly: the whole Allied World had been fighting**

**against.**

**My own father served throughout the War: my uncle, an**

**Artillery gunner, died in Normandy. We slept in our terraced**

**house front room, in Newcastle-on-Tyne: my Mother, my**

**Grandma, myself and my two brothers under the slender**

**protection of an Andersen shelter, built by my Dad when on**

**leave. He moved two mattresses in, together with bedding,**

**and there we took night-time refuge, against the threat of**

**bombs which rained down on Great Britain and Northern**

**Ireland from the Luftwaffe. Born in the September of 1940, I**

**was just an infant, but we survived; courtesy of the heroes**

**who served and flew in the R.A.F., and those who manned the**

**ships in the Merchant Navy convoys who sailed the Atlantic,**

**with the paper-thin numbers of Escort vessels given the Royal**

**Navy after years of neglect from politicians of all colours as**

**protection. The War proceeded over our heads, Democracy**

**was saved by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, which of**

**course brought America into the War: and by the sheer twin**

**lunacies of Hitler's declaration of War against the might of the**

**United States, and against his mortal enemy Soviet Russia,**

**yet another 'Sleeping Giant'; to paraphrase Admiral**

**Yamamoto.**

**Very few politicians of that decade understood the real threat**

**of Hitler’s Third Reich. Winston Churchill partly did, but I**

**reckon he only ever thought of Hitler as a conqueror;**

**determined to gain the ‘Lebensraum’ which that evil man**

**determined that his Aryan Nation deserved. Neville**

**Chamberlain took us into War only because Hitler invaded**

**Poland, and Great Britain and Northern Ireland had Treaty**

**obligations with Poland. But, with his Munich negotiations;**

**Mr. Chamberlain had also given us that priceless year within**

**which time Britain was able to produce the numbers of**

**fighters such as the Hurricane and the Spitfire, and to give the**

**precious training time for the pilots who would fly, fight and**

**die so that Great Britain might withstand the Nazi onslaught:,**

**as well as completion of 'Chain Home', the first Radar system.**

**The true scale of the Nazi Atrocities, apart that is from the**

**genocides practiced against the Occupied Nations, were only**

**revealed when the Soviet Russians began overrunning the**

**Death Camps like Auschwitz, along with Treblinka; a Camp**

**which the Nazis attempted to obliterate as they retreated: and**

**these discoveries were later confirmed after the British and**

**Americans liberated such places as Bergen-Belsen and**

**Dachau. The unreal views of the living skeleton survivors,**

**amidst the piles of dead, were remorselessly covered by the**

**Allied Camera military teams who were directed to follow and**

**catalogue everything they saw, later compiled into a film. This**

**film was censored by the British and American Governments,**

**and was only released a few years ago under the grim title;**

**‘Holocaust: Night Will Fall’ The BBC broadcast the**

**commentaries from such as Richard Dimbleby, but only after**

**referring everything back for corroboration, so ghastly were**

**those factual reports.**

**The syllabus in all British schools, colleges and universities**

**is said to include the Jewish Holocaust, but it is, possibly**

**because of the paramountcy of politicised educationalists;**

**diluted, sanitised and, put plainly: sandpapered. My own**

**daughter, a well-educated and Degreed Mechanical Engineer,**

**now mid-aged, stated, to the best of her recollection; ‘No**

**coverage at all of the Holocaust’ during her Secondary School**

**years. Things may be different today: but somehow, I doubt it.**

**My generation needs no reminders or 'nudges' to recall the**

**Holocaust, and the Generation following mine is equally**

**versed in the Nazi crimes against Humanity. But today's**

**Generation needs a wake-up call, a swift and brutal reminder**

**that a Nation which produced Telemann, Bach and**

**Mendelsohn; Nietzsche and Freud: also produced the type of**

**thinking which reduced human beings to numbers. Numbers**

**to be transported, numbers to be enslaved; numbers to be**

**beguiled with lies: and numbers to be murdered, gassed and**

**cremated. This cannot be achieved by a 'Memorial' building,**

**no matter how 'Educational' it may be; no matter how wellintentioned**

**the place, the design or the electronic gimmicks**

**which may festoon the 'Learning Experience'!**

**So, Members and Participants in this Inquiry; here’s my**

**proposal, which is to discard the proposal to build this**

**Memorial and Learning Centre, and instead spend at least part**

**of that £50 million quid to fund the purchase of 90,000**

**hardback copies of ‘The Scourge of the Swastika’; along with**

**the production and reproduction of 90,000 DVD copies of**

**‘Holocaust: Night will Fall’. These items will be distributed**

**amongst all, repeat ALL British education establishments with**

**an enrolled age of 15 years or older. No one would be allowed**

**to demur from watching the DVD or reading the Book. The**

**Book will form part of the Syllabus, along with timely showing**

**of the DVD to those schools, colleges, Universities: so that**

**Britain's youth can, should and will learn of the capacity,**

**within a nation from whence sprang genius; of Man’s**

**INHUMANITY to his fellow man within the policies of that**

**feared FINAL SOLUTION.**

**In conclusion and in explaining the quotation from**

**Lamentations: we already have Three Holocaust Memorials.**

**The first is in the Imperial War Museum, well-known,**

**accessible, and in the throes of upgrading.**

**The second is the Memorial Statue to the ten thousand**

**Kindertransport children, sited just outside Liverpool Street**

**Station at pavement level. The British Government gave**

**formal sanctuary to some ten thousand Jewish children who**

**became the Kindertransport. The British Government had**

**literally no idea of the fate which would befall their parents,**

**along with the other victims of Nazi Germany, but something,**

**something strange occurred to move an Administration and a**

**Government which was quietly partly anti-semitic itself.**

**Letters of concern to senior members of both Government**

**and Civil Service may have helped, but no-one really knows**

**what moved a Government, through its bureaucracy, to**

**announce a not-very-welcoming message to those ten**

**thousand that they could come over, as long as they were no**

**burden on the taxpayer.**

**Those kids, pushed onto trains by frantic parents who could**

**not leave either Germany or the later Occupied Nations were**

**grudgingly allowed into Britain: grudgingly because of the**

**thinly-veiled Anti-Semitism rank amongst many of the British**

**Establishment. They came in their hundreds, and then in their**

**thousands; as the Continental Jewish families began to**

**realise that Hitler and his Germany had little time for Jews,**

**and life was rapidly becoming intolerable, especially after the**

**horrors of Kristallnacht spread like a fast cancer across a**

**Germany which was all too accommodating to the anti-semitic**

**calls of a rabid Nazi Party and their armed stooges. They**

**arrived by air, they stumbled across the quays of Harwich,**

**they arrived blinking at Liverpool Street Station: the last ship**

**carrying Kindertransport children left the Netherlands on May**

**14 1940.**

**The third Memorial? The quotation from Lamentations**

**appears, carved into a boulder below the explanatory heading**

**‘HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL GARDEN'. The Holocaust is**

**memorialised in Hyde Park in a simple design, with engraved**

**boulders in a gravel space, surrounded by white-stemmed**

**birch trees. It is understated, and that is, in mine own humble**

**opinion, as it should be. Proposed, designed, funded and built**

**by British Jewry; nestled ajacent to the Serpentine, that small**

**space IS sufficient to the needs of both Memory and**

**Memorial. What could be more apposite than a Jewish**

**Memorial from British Jews?**

**We do not need, as called for by the ex-Prime Minister David**

**Cameron and his Holocaust Commission, a new memorial**

**which should be *“striking and prominent, as well as***

***respectful, interactive, and educational”.* As all the**

**participants in the Inquiry must know, we have the entire**

**published history of the world at our literal fingertips:**

**courtesy of Internet-connected smart phones, tablets and**

**computers. We do not need to be ‘educated’ by some**

**Establishment bunch who reckon that they know better than**

**others what to push into the minds of the inquiring.**

**When the very term “Educational” is but two steps removed**

**from the ‘Re-education' in Orwell’s '1984'.**

**When a simple online search for *“Jewish Holocaust”***

**produces 60 million Web page addresses in 0.51 seconds.**

**I end with the words; “Seek, and you shall find; Knock, and it**

**shall be opened unto you!”**

**I thank you for your time, and for the chance of my opinion**

**being heard amongst the many illustrious persons and**

**Organisations who have also spoken for, and against, the**

**proposed Memorial.**