

12th February 1975

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear John

We have had lengthy discussions about "MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL". First, I think you must accept that you are asking for an 'A' Certificate for this film. In television terms this is equivalent to a transmission time somewhere between 6 and 8. The original has never been so transmitted on television, nor have any of the television episodes contained so much bad language, or quite so much blood. We have discussed it fairly carefully. There are one or two places where the language appears to us to be obtrusive, and I must ask you to look at these points again. Secondly, though we accept that much of the blood-letting is meant to be funny, there are one or two places where, in our view, the humour is not very effective. Bearing these points in mind, I must ask you to look again at the following:-

- Reel 1 We accept the dismembering of the Black Knight, but are worried by the first stab through the visor and the blood gush.
- Reel 2 (a) We are less than enchanted by your funny Frenchman. The repetition of "Jesus Christ" in the film seems to us unnecessary. There is good evidence that this does distress people who would otherwise enjoy the film. Can you look not only in Reel 2, but in other places to see if you can reduce the incidence of this usage.
- (b) The shot of A J P Taylor having this throat gashed is really too bloody.
- Reel 3 (a) The phrase "the oral sex".
- (b) The Sister saying "Shit!"
- Reel 4 The close up of the blood on the Bride's mouth is really too much.

I would be grateful for your observations on these points.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Murphy