

Shell Shareholders Organisation

PO BOX 224 Bury St. Edmunds IP30 0FE

Tel: 01284 386987 Fax: 01284 760529 e-mail: aed@shell-shareholders.org Web: www.shell-shareholders.org

15th February 1999

**MR MAARTEN VAN DEN BERGH, PRESIDENT
ROYAL DUTCH PETROLEUM COMPANY
CAREL VAN BYLANDTAAN 30
2596 HR THE HAGUE**

Dear Mr van den Bergh

Thank you for your letter dated 29th January 1999. In view of the fact that you represent the 60% majority stake in the Royal Dutch Shell Group, I am saddened to learn that you have aligned the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company with DJ Freeman, the British firm of Solicitors whose scandalous activities have brought Shell's reputation into further disrepute.

You and your British colleagues, Mr Moody-Stuart and Mr Malcolm Brinded, are very well aware of the core principle of the Statement of General Business Principles, requiring "openness" in ALL of Shell's dealings. That is exactly the opposite of the policy Shell is currently following, with Shell executives once again hiding behind a wall of oily lawyers.

Dr Fay took the same stance, even though it is directly at odds with his letter of apology regarding the earlier claims. In his letter he said that if Shell had ensured that its dealings with Don Marketing met with the high standards Shell sets for itself, rather than focusing on the strict legal issues, our differences would have been resolved more quickly. In other words, he accepted that it had been a mistake to leave the matter to the lawyers, rather than Shell living up to the moral obligations specified in the STATEMENT. It is therefore remarkable that Shell is repeating exactly the same error on this occasion.

Bearing all of the above in mind, I can only assume that you and your colleagues take the view that litigation does not fall within the definition of "dealings". It would explain how Shell has been prepared to resort to sinister activities while conducting its defence of the SMART claim brought by my son, John Donovan.

I refer to the skulduggery used by the sleazy undercover operative, Mr Christopher Phillips, of Cofton Consultants, Knightsbridge, which has been admitted by Shell. One of a number of agents briefed by Shell Solicitors, DJ Freeman, in connection with the SMART claim.

I have publicly identified on more than one occasion both on leaflets and on the Internet (www.shell-shareholders.org) the firms and individuals associated with the underhand activities.

The fact that *none* of the parties involved have taken legal action to prevent me repeating the assertions confirms that what I am saying must be true.

Incidentally, the Police informed my son on 30th January 1999 that they believe that sinister motives were behind the breaking and entering at my sons home (the most recent in a series of suspicious burglaries at the homes of people associated with his SMART claim). Although Shell and DJ Freeman have categorically denied any connection with the burglaries, this does not rule out the possibility that an overzealous undercover investigator may have exceeded instructions.

When is somebody going to accept responsibility for the damage done to Shell's reputation over these matters? Who will resign when it is shown in open Court that Shell UK has had in its possession for years, incontrovertible documentary evidence that corrupt practices were deliberately used by Shell UK manager, Mr Andrew Lazenby? It seems that no one cares that the solemn pledges of "honesty, integrity, and openness" in the STATEMENT, will be publicly exposed as a sham.

As you are aware, I spent three days at The Hague at the end of January distributing a series of leaflets. I was once again extremely grateful for the encouragement and sympathy expressed by many individuals. It is also good to know that some amusement is generated by the jests in my leaflets about the high and mighty at Shell. Satire has added bite when it is based on fact. I noticed with delight that a number of people already had leaflets brought over by UK colleagues.

As mentioned in my letter, at the age of 81, I really would much prefer to be snoozing in my favourite chair rather than battling Shell, but someone has to be prepared to fight the Goliath's of this world if they act unethically and oppressively. I wonder if Shell executives would still be trying to defend the indefensible and ignoring all ADR proposals if, instead of being able to waste shareholder funds, they had *personal liability* for the huge litigation costs? I think we all know the answer.

I enclose a copy of a letter sent to Her Majesty, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. I draw your attention to the last paragraph and trust that you will give proper consideration to my suggestion. I will be back at your offices shortly circulating a selection of new leaflets, including a copy of the letter to HM Queen Beatrix.

Yours sincerely

Alfred Donovan
Chairman
Shell Shareholders Organisation