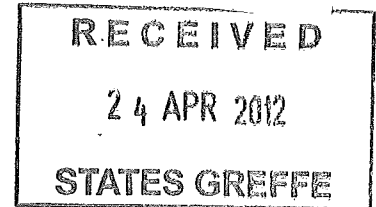


Deputy Jeremy Maçon.,
Chairman,
The Education & Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel,
c/o The States Greffe,
"Morier House",
Halkett Place,
St.Helier,
Jersey,



To members of the Panel,
Gentlemen,

I am absolutely flabbergasted that such a contentious issue as the introduction of 'Taser' weapons to the Island should even be considered as an added option for supposed police protection.

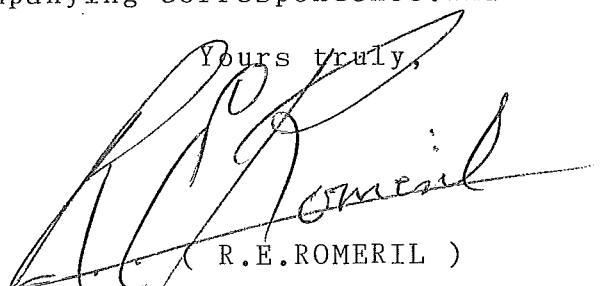
The absence of police personnel on the streets of St.Helier is indicative to me at least if not to anybody else, of a lack of physical condition on the part of many. I would humbly suggest to begin with that all such should be obliged to undergo, on a regular basis, a 'half marathon' to be completed within ninety minutes ; those who fail to achieve such, when reexamined thirty days later should be given their 'marching orders' and dismissed from the force.

There already exists ample opportunity in the Island to train in all kinds of disciplines including martial arts in order to become and remain physically fit. I am reasonably certain that my presently being in my 80's, I still could outrun many in the first one hundred yards. A fit man or woman can or should be able to disarm anybody wielding a knife or other weapon ; there is absolutely no need for the use of 'Tasers' in such a small Island.

Those of us who went through the hardships of the 'Occupation' and were constantly pre-occupied in outfoxing the enemy and in some cases like my late father (incidentally an old soldier of World War One, Thirteenth Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps, and almost wiped out at the Battle of Passchandaele, North-West Belgium.....woke up on the fifteenth day in Bournemouth General Hospital from his coma) who never shied away from telling German soldiers how bad the news was from either the Russian front or from Normandy and beyond, would undoubtedly turn over in his grave to-day if he were to know that which is now going on in his beloved Island ; incidentally, the 'Romeril' ^{has} been established since 1407.

I shall be enclosing copies of past correspondence sent to Senator Philip Ozouf, together with newspaper clippings of various 'tazer' incidences. I would, in conclusion, very much hope that you would consult "Amnesty International's" website in order to verify the information provided in the accompanying correspondence. Thank you.

Yours truly,



(R.E.ROMERIL)

COPY

ad,

Senator Philip Ozouf.,
Minister,
Treasury & Resources,
P.O.Box 353,
Cyril Le Marquand House,
The Parade,
St.Helier,JE4 8UL.

Dear SENator,

I am in receipt of your reply of the 03/02/2012 to my earlier letter regarding the possible introduction into the Island of "Tasers" to be used by members of the 'Jersey Police Force'. Your reply disappoints me greatly when there already exists a wealth of evidence available which clearly reinforces the notion that such is indeed a lethal weapon and has no place whatsoever in a just and democratic society. Have you ever considered taking a referendum to the people of the Island in order to assess just how popular such an introduction would be ?

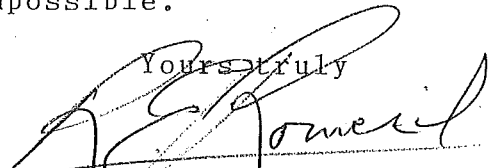
Have you already contacted H.M.Attorney General's Department seeking advice as to the possible financial consequences which would inevitably result if a member of the public should be killed as a direct result of the use of this particular weapon ? In any judicial intervention arising as the result of this weapon's use, I can well imagine that it would be you, in your official capacity, who would be accused of having created a misdemeanour for having provided the authorisation for its use and not the individual responsible for firing it. You should give this matter considerable thought.

I shall be enclosing a photocopy of an article which appeared fairly recently in the French daily newspaper, "Nord-Ouest". I should think that its translation should not create any undue problem for you. It states that "Amnesty International" has already revealed the death of no fewer than three hundred and fifty one individuals across the world all directly attributable to the use of this weapon.

The managing director of the French company, "SMP Technologies" which imports and distributes these weapons across the country had, according to the article once issued a 'writ for slander' in 2008 against the spokesperson for a group of human rights activists, known under the acronym of 'N.P.A.'. I believe that the case was ultimately dismissed by a court in Paris. I shall attempt to secure a copy of the court transcript in due course.

Those of us who have already endured and suffered under the onslaught of the "Jackboot" can hardly forget the past and its accompanying brutality. I even saw my own late father knocked unconscious to the ground after receiving half a brick across the face and delivered after dark by a German soldier. At an earlier time I was attacked in an outbuilding and as a result, suffered a gash above my left temple ; I was just fourteen years of age.

Only those who actually lived through those dark events can understandbut how can one ever forget them! Impossible!

Yours truly

(R.E.ROMERIL)

COPY

Senator Philip Ozouf.,
Treasury Minister,
c/o The States Greffe,
"Morier House",
Halkett Place,
St. Helier.

Dear Senator,

According to the latest publication of the "Jersey Weekly Post", you are reported to have travelled to London in order to discuss with one of the U.K. ministers the possibility of importing 'Tasers' for police use in the Island. I cannot comprehend any kind of logical or valid reason for even thinking about it let alone attempting to implement such a macabre plan to import such a deathly weapon when so many countries around the world have already banned its use altogether.

France

I believe, was about to ban it altogether some time ago and Canada has already done so some years ago. It was the death of a Polish immigrant arriving at Toronto Airport, Ontario, Canada, who, because of his inability to speak English, seemed to have encountered some difficulties with 'airport security' and was 'tazered', dying soon afterwards. The Canadian Minister of Justice in Ottawa immediately made it an offence for any police force across the country to even use such a lethal weapon again, including "The Royal Canadian Mounted Police" which, in my opinion at least, is more of a 'para military' force than a 'police' ditto as most people would interpret such.

What kind of message are you attempting to send out to the world at large?

A mere island of no more than nine miles by five in dimension and hardly a 'speck' on most maps as compared to that area of Canada which exceeds three million square miles with a prison population which exceeds that of the U.K. even though the country's population in total is no more than thirty two million. Surely, for the greater majority of people, upon becoming acquainted with this proposed knowledge, instead of equating the Island as a dynamic and imaginative 'offshore centre of banking' will interpret it to be nothing less than a hideout of 'crooks, criminals and shysters' and hence the need for such draconian measures on the part of the police. Obviously, you have not thought this through and even considered some of the disastrous consequences which may well ensue.

As a former member of many years standing, of an overseas based 'Human Rights and Civil Liberties' group (in case you should develop any kind of doubts, I can assure you that I am anything but bespectacled, bearded and sandal wearing) but obviously abhor any form of violence and, as far as I am concerned, any policeman who, when equipped with a baton and 'pepper spray', still feels inadequate when faced with a few unruly individuals, then he or she has no business whatsoever to be wearing a police uniform.....these are nothing but cowards if the truth be told. I was once attacked by a labourer in a 'work camp' many years ago which I could never have anticipated ever happening... 'a bolt out of the blue' one might say, but this individual in less than 'the blink of an eye' was already on the floor unconscious where he remained for another five minutes; he did not know even what hit him. The next morning, he was put on a bus and sent home hundreds of miles away. Fortunately, he did not have a knife but I was certainly not going to risk my life had he had one.
Thank you.

I remain,
Yours truly,
(R.E.ROMERIL)

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Police shoot innocent motorist with Taser

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A DRIVER was Tasered by police who mistook him for a suspect in a car crash.

Duncan Schwab, 45, an award-winning wine maker, was driving home after harvesting grapes when he stopped by a burning car at the side of the road.

He said a police officer appeared from behind a hedge, smashed his van window and fired the stun gun at him without warning. Mr Schwab claims the officer then shouted: "What does it feel like to be Tasered?"

Mr Schwab was arrested and taken into custody, where he was breathalysed and charged with failing to stop for police near Totnes, Devon on Oct 22 last year.

Despite his insistence that he had done nothing wrong,

the Crown Prosecution Service took the case to court but offered no evidence to Newton Abbot magistrates on Thursday last week.

Mr Schwab said: "I reversed back and there was an officer hiding in the hedge who came out, smashed the side window and fired the Taser."

He said it felt like "putting up an electric badger fence". "They thought I was connected to the burned-out car," Mr Schwab added.

Devon and Cornwall police said it was investigating a stolen car which had crashed into a house, setting it on fire.

"Officers were carrying out searches for the suspects when a car failed to stop for police," a spokesman said.

The CPS said it dropped the case because police had charged Mr Schwab with the wrong offence.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH | THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011

Police used stun gun on man having epileptic fit

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

AN EPILEPTIC having a fit was shot twice with a Taser stun gun by a policeman who declared: "I am sure 50,000 volts will stand him up," it emerged yesterday.

The Pc used the weapon to stun 40-year-old Howard Swarray who had a violent seizure after a work out at a gym in Manchester in November 2009. Mr Swarray was lashing out at paramedics trying to treat him. After the incident, he spent two weeks in hospital with kidney failure.

A report by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) published yesterday concluded that officers did not use excessive force.

The police watchdog said some of the tactics adopted were "questionable", but cleared all officers of misconduct.

Mr Swarray had been working out at the gym when he collapsed in front of staff. Paramedics arrived within 15 minutes and checked him for injury, but a confused and disorientated Mr Swarray got to his feet. A CCTV camera captured him climbing on to a reception desk. Mr Swarray bit, punched and kicked out at people who were trying to restrain and treat him and police were called.

In its report, the IPCC said one officer trained in the deployment of Taser said in a radio transmission: "If he's getting aggressive, I am sure 50,000 volts will stand him up".

Mr Swarray was later diagnosed as having suffered an epileptic seizure and being in a "post ictal stage" when lashing out - a period of recovery during which a person can be confused or aggressive and violent.

The IPCC said it would recommend to the Association of Chief Police Officers that a review be undertaken into tactics for dealing with people who are experiencing serious medical episodes. Mr Swarray was not available for comment.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2012

Police attacked me, claims black fireman

A black fireman has claimed a group of police officers assaulted him and shot him with a Taser gun in a racist attack when he offered to help them.

Edric Kennedy-Macfoy has lodged a complaint of alleged racism against six Metropolitan Police officers over the incident. The 28 year-old claims he was trying to tell police about a man he had seen hurl a rock at a police van when the group attacked him like "wild animals" in Harrow, north-west London, on Sept 4 last year.

Mr Kennedy-Macfoy alleges the officers dragged him from his car and beat him, then shot him with the stun gun. The case has been referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission. A Met spokesman said: "Such allegations are taken extremely seriously."