

EXCEPTION FORM

Date November 29th. 1965

Title "THUNDERBALL"

Submitted by Eon Productions Ltd.

Proposed category A

Reel 2. Remove the first of the two scenes in which James Bond is seen stroking the back of a partially nude girl on a bed with a mink glove.

Reel 13 should be resubmitted in colour for further consideration.

Saw a rough assembly of this film. I don't expect much trouble for 'A' this time. There are three scenes that we might want to modify - ① a fight in a bath, ② a bed scene that follows, ③ the villain starting to torture the girl -

36

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CONFIDENTIAL

Eon Productions Limited,
27 Hill Street,
London, W.1.

12/8/65
Saw rough-cut. Seems more or less all right for 'A' - on one or two doubtful scenes. Advise official submission at once. *21/10/65*

23rd April, 1965

We have now studied the screenplay of "THUNDERBALL," and I think that we may have some problems with the picture for the 'A' category with both sex and sadism. The material seems to us rather less light-hearted than that of the previous Bond pictures, and this must inevitably make a difference. I know that you would be reluctant, as I would, to have this picture in the 'X' category, but I must warn you that this might well be our decision unless certain scenes are substantially modified.

My comments on points of detail are as follows:-

Page 11 - Scene 29

When Number Nine is electrocuted we would not want any shot of him that was gruesome or nasty for children. If shot as described in the screenplay there would probably be trouble.

Page 13 - Scene 36

We would not want obvious semi-nudity in Patricia's costume. I am not sure about the mink gloves, which have a strong sexual connotation. I hope that you will have an alternative available.

Continued

23rd April, 1965

- two -

Pages 18-19 - Scene 52

As scripted it is suggested that Bond is naked while kissing Patricia. I think that we should clearly see that he is wearing shorts.

Page 21 - Scenes 57-59

Bond's reaction to the 'torture' should not be overdone.

Page 23 - Scenes 59B & 59C

I do not think that we would accept in the 'A' category a shot which suggests that Bond and Patricia are embracing naked in the steam room, even if they are largely obscured by steam. It seems to me that Scene 59C could be completely omitted, if we think it necessary, without loss of continuity.

Pages 25-25A - Scenes 68-70

Lipson's agonies should not be overdone; surely what is happening to him could equally well be suggested and not shown directly.

Page 25A - Scene 72

Fiona's costume should not be too 'revealingly deshabille.'

Pages 26C-26D - Scene 81A

This sex-scene is also likely to give trouble. There is the clear indication that Patricia is naked under the sheet, and we have Bond using the mink glove (see my previous comment.) We would only accept the most discreet sex-scene in the 'A' category. Again it seems to me that the scene could, if necessary, be completely removed.

Pages 27-28 - Scenes 88-89

We would not want to see any nasty shots of the crew choking and writhing.

Page 32 - Scene 122

We would not want any nasty shots of corpses here.

Continued

23rd April, 1965

- three -

Page 34 - Scene 139

The killing of Angelo by Largo is very cold-blooded, and should be as short as possible. We would not want to see any satisfaction in Largo over what he is doing.

Pages 38A-38B - Scene 163F

Here we get Bond clearly having slept with Patricia and there is a joke about 'exercise.' This scene may also run into trouble unless very discreet. We would certainly not want nudity or semi-nudity. Once again the scene could be omitted, or end with the first sentence.

Page 38B - Scenes 164D-164E

We would not want to see any shot of Patricia "flat on her back with her legs straddled." I do not imagine that you will give us one.

Page 41 - Scenes 182-187

We would not want any shot of Lipson after his car is set on fire, and the whole incident should be as short as possible.

Page 46 - Scene 199D

We are always cautious about imitable ways of opening locked doors. Please avoid camera emphasis on the celluloid and its use.

Page 52 - Scene 236

I think that the dialogue might be modified to remove the reference to aphrodisiac.

Page 63B - Scene X21

We gather that we are not to see Quist thrown to the sharks. This is a sadistic incident and there should be no lingering on it.

Page 82 - Scene 310

The killing of the guard by Bond sounds very nasty. It should be short and not unpleasant. The knee-kick should be omitted.

The violence in this scene should not be excessive. His attack on Fiam is the worse for his recently having had
Continued
as I have said, we may well remove.

Continued

23rd April, 1965

- four -

Pages 104-105 - Scenes X52-X55A The violence to Paula should be kept to an absolute minimum, far less than is suggested by the script. It is a sadistic scene, and should not be so. Surely Paula can be just captured without being hit or clawed.

Page 108 - Scene X72 Bond's fight with the guard will probably be all right, but we do not like his lifting the man's head, as he lies on the ground, and hitting him in the face. This is unpleasant violence.

Page 112 - Scene 392 We should not see the sharks attacking the guard's bleeding corpse, and we would not want to see a lot of blood-stained water.

Temporary Pages (10th March)
Scenes 412-413B All this is gratuitous sex, which goes much too far for the 'A' category. I take it that the scenes can be entirely removed without loss of continuity? Apart from the censorable details, which are obvious; we do not at all like the situation in which Bond makes love to this girl, knowing that she is his enemy and claims afterwards that he did it for "King and Country!" This is the kind of imported sex which will give this film a great deal of trouble here, and I suggest that you entirely omit it, or, if you shoot it for export versions, you should do so in such a way as to enable us to remove it entirely.

Page 122 - Scenes X96-X97 We would not want any nasty shot of Bond throwing the spirit stove into Janni's face. The violence in this scene should not be excessive. His attack on Fiona is the worse for his recently having had her in bed (which, as I have said, we may well remove.)

Continued

23rd April, 1965

- five -

Pages 124C-124D -
Scenes X124F-X124I

The killing of Fiona with the short spear should be short, and we do not care for Bond's callous jokes about it. The killing of a girl like this is not a matter for comedy. We assume that the girl is killed instantaneously.

Page 130 - Scene 436N

We would not want any nasty shots of corpses in the submerged plane. Surely this kind of shot could be entirely omitted.

Page 138 - Scene 455

The killing of Vargas is another piece of cold-blooded killing; and once again we do not like Bond's callous jokes about it. These add to the sadism.

Page 141 - Scene 464

We always try to get rid of Karate blows on the neck, since they are imitable and dangerous.

Page 144 - Scene 503

We do not like the idea of Bond impaling a man on a hook and then stabbing him. Surely he could kill him without impaling him.

Page 146 - Scene 519

Largo's treatment of Domino is unnecessarily brutal.

Pages 147-148 - Scenes 522-523

Largo's lines here are much too sadistic, and should all be removed. There is no need for him to suggest torture of this kind. Nor should he tear off her blouse. We would not want to hear screaming either.

Page 156 - Scene 505

The fight should be short and not too brutal; and should be without foul blows. Here there is another Karate blow to the neck; see my previous comment. We would not want to see the engineer with bleeding face after he is thrown into the glass.

Continued

READER'S
EXAMINER'S REPORT

23rd April, 1965

TITLE OF SCRIPT *Thunderbolt* - six -

Page 157 - Scene 590

We would not like the double-handed blow on Bond's neck; this is also dangerous. Surely Bond need not fire three shots into Largo in order to kill him. This is sadism rather than straight adventure stuff.

I hope you will take serious notice of these comments. I get the impression that this screenplay has been deliberately hotbed up with a view to its including more sex, sadism and violence than the previous Bond pictures, and, as I said earlier, it seems less light-hearted in tone and therefore likely to be taken more seriously than the other films.

Yours sincerely,

P.S. - In view of the possibility of problems arising from this film I think it advisable for me to keep a copy of the screenplay in my office for the time being. If, however, you should want it back immediately I will, of course, return it.