PLOWSHARES SUPPORT/R.I.

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Dear Friends-

Greetings from the Trident II Plowshares. It has been a long time since we last wrote. For some of you this may be the first time you have heard from us. This newsletter will fill you in on the action and pre-trial hearing for the Trident II Plowshares as well as provide you with some basic information about the Trident program.

We have enclosed a postcard with this mailing. If you wish to continue receiving updates about the Trident II Plowshares it is important that you send back the postcard asking to stay on the mailing list. Please take the time to respond we would be sad to lose you.

THE TRIDENT II PLOWSHARES (in brief)

On October 1, 1984 Bill Boston, Jean Holladay, Frank Panopoulos John Pendleton and Leo Schiff entered the Electric Boat shipyard at Quonset Pt. in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. With common hammers and baby bottles full of their own blood they disarmed six Trident II (D-5) missile tubes. Their banners declared "Trident= Harvest of Death" and "Harvest of Hope-Swords Into Plowshares". At this writing, there is no date set for trial. To offer your personal and financial support please contact the support group by writing to the above address or calling (401) 421-8612.

THE PRE-TRIAL HEARING (January 14, 1985)

The Trident II Plowshares appeared in court on January 14 to argue several pre-trial motions. Though most of the motions were denied, it was a good chance for developing relationships with prosecutor Jeff Pine and trial judge Domenic Cresto.

Among the motions argued was a motion to dismiss charges based on principles of international law. Those principles would uphold that the defendants were legally justified in their actions, if not, in fact, bound to them. They would further validate the contention that the Trident II missile system is illegal. Mr. Cresto denied the motion and the request to present witnesses to supplement the defendants' arguments. Later, he told a group of high school students, who were watching the proceedings, that "you can't hide behind international law."

Motions to preserve the evidence and allow an on-site inspection of the damages were denied on the grounds that the court, in Judge Cresto's opinion did not have the authority to order Electric Boat to allow the defendants and their witnesses onto its property.

Continued efforts to secure the prosecution's discovery evidence were vaguely sidestepped. Once again Mr. Pine promised to provide that material or to make it accessible as soon as he had it himself.

The court did appoint Mort Newton as advisory counsel. Mort, who has been working with the group from the beginning, will be paid by the court for his good and generous labors.

Although Judge Cresto said he could not determine a trial date at that point, he promised to mail trial information within two-three weeks. April seems to be the earliest projected time frame for the trial.

We would like to thank the twenty or so hearty souls who joined together that chilly morning, for the vigil and court appearance. A fine lunch afterwards, at the University of Rhode Island Catholic Center, gave everyone an opportunity to spend some short time with new friends. May our union continue and victories be shared.

● ● ● ● ● THE SUPPORT FUND NEEDS YOUR HELP! ● ● ● ● ● ●

As you all know, it costs alot to support friends on trial. Telephones printing, postage, and prison support are quite costly. We are appealing to you for financial help. Send whatever you can - no amount is too small (or too large)...thank you. Make checks payable to Plowshares Support/RI at the above address.