AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR A SAFE BOSTON HARBOR

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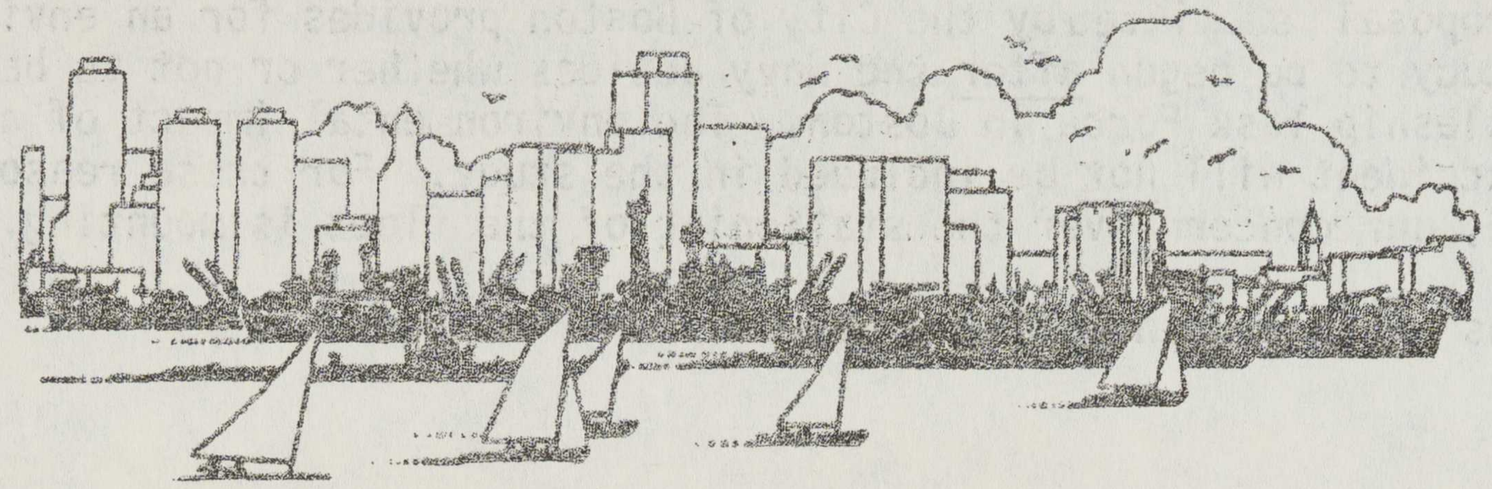

June 14, 1983

JUNE 25th TEACH-IN

Dear Friend,

We can keep the Iowa Battleship Task Force and its sea-launch cruise missiles out of Boston (Rhode Island and New York) but we need you with us at the Boston Common on June 25 for the Teach-In: "Cruise Missiles in Boston Harbor."

Since we wrote to you in May the Iowa Battleship Task Force has become one of the most debated issues in Boston. It has been the subject of many news stories in the print media, as well as on television and radio. On June 6, Captain James T. Bush (ret.) of the Center for Defense Information stunned the Boston City Council with detailed information about safety issues related to the fleet (see below). He was followed by many concerned citizens who oppose the proposal to place the Iowa Task Force in Boston. The Herald's headline following the hearing reported: "Battleship Bid Gets Blasted."

Our next step, (yours and ours), is to demonstrate public opposition to the fleet through the June 25 Teach-In. The teach-in will provide a way for hundreds of people who oppose this escalation of the arms race, who are concerned about jobs and safety and survival in Boston to publicly protest the fleet and to learn more about it. We know it will be a summer Saturday, but you won't keep the Iowa away by going to the beach.

E.P. Thompson, a co-founder of the European Nuclear Disarmament Movement, will be giving his first speech in the United States following the British elections at the teach-in. A host of other speakers will provide information about the environmental, safety, economic and military concerns surrounding the positioning of this fleet. In addition to your presence, and that of friends and colleagues you may inform, we will need help setting up for the teach-in, distributing information, staffing literature tables, selling buttons, etc. If you can help us in any way, please give us a call.

Here are a few of the safety specifics we have learned since our last mailing: The Navy concedes a total of 379 nuclear weapons accidents between 1965 and 1977. In the Mayport, Florida harbor the Navy literally dropped a nuclear tipped terrier missile. One study commissioned by the Department of Energy found that a hypothetical nuclear weapons accident at a military installation - short of a detonation - could release a cloud of plutonium down wind in "a radiological cigar-shaped cloud extending from the accident scene for about 28 miles, with a maximum width of about 2.5miles