

# Britain 'spending £350m on Trident missiles from US'

BRITAIN is to buy 23 Trident missiles from the United States at a cost of £15.5m each, a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament conference was told yesterday.

The news came on the eve of today's defence debate at which Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, will re-state Conservative policy on maintaining the strategic nuclear capability and the new air-launched "sub-strategic" deterrent, primarily aimed at deterring emerging third world nuclear powers.

The Government still plans to complete four Trident submarines, each capable of carrying 16 American-built missiles, with up to eight British-built warheads on each. The figure of 23 missiles was based on the US Senate fiscal analysis for 1992, CND said.

The Ministry of Defence said last night: "We never give numbers, nor have we given any timetable for purchasing them."

CND said that the Trident programme represents a tenfold increase in Britain's nuclear striking power, and demanded that it be cancelled immediately.

But today Mr King, opening the debate for the Government, will maintain that the Trident force represents the "lowest level consistent with maintaining effective deterrence".

The original justification for Trident, with its multiple warheads, was to penetrate the evolving Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM)

By Christopher Bellamy  
Defence Correspondent

defences around Moscow. But, in the changed strategic environment, and following the arms control initiatives involving President Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, some are asking whether a system of this sophistication is necessary.

Mr King will also argue for the sub-strategic system, to which the Government is committed in its Defence White Paper, known as the Tactical Air-to-Surface Missile (TASM). The Government believes that such a system — to replace the ageing WE-177 free-fall nuclear bombs — is very cost effective.

The idea behind TASM is that "third countries" might not believe that Britain would use Trident against them. These countries are not members of the official nuclear club — third-world countries and those former USSR republics which may retain nuclear weapons.

But they might believe that Britain would fire a low-yield nuclear weapon from an aircraft.

Political sources still say that Britain can afford TASM, at a cost of up to £2.5bn. Opponents of TASM within the defence community say that, if it is only aimed at third world nations, a less sophisticated system is needed. Free-fall bombs, or at most, a shorter-range missile, would do.

## Toughened pint glasses 'would curb pub injuries'

By Liz Hunt  
Medical Correspondent

A LEADING surgeon is calling for the use of "toughened" drinking glasses to be a condition of licensing in pubs, wine bars, and restaurants to reduce the number of serious face and neck injuries that occur when glasses are used as weapons in fights.

Toughened or tempered glasses which do not fracture into sharp fragments should be as common as toughened glass in car windcreens, according to Jonathan Shepherd, professor of oral and maxillo-facial surgery at the University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff.

In Dorset, where some publicans are now stocking toughened

## Attempt to smuggle immigrants is foiled

By Steve Gravener

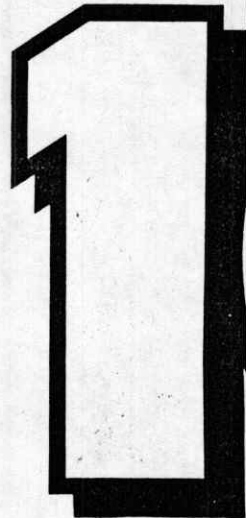
AN ATTEMPT to smuggle 31 illegal immigrants into Britain was foiled when they were found hiding in a lorry due to be shipped from the Netherlands to Harwich in Essex.

The discovery was made at the Hook of Holland after British immigration officers tipped off their Dutch counterparts following the arrest of 10 Sikhs in Braintree, Essex, on 11 November. The Sikhs told officers they had travelled to Harwich from the Netherlands concealed in a lorry.

Extra attention was paid to vehicles using the Dutch port and on Sunday the 31 Indians and Bangladeshis were found. They were taken into custody in Rot-

INDEPENDENT 22.11.91

# UP TO



# EVEN



H

**Argos** £

**£2<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>** Purchases between £20.00 - £29.99 £

**£3<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>** Purchases between £30.00 - £39.99 £

This voucher can be used to purchase any Argos Flying Flowers or Hampers. Only one voucher per customer.

**Valid between 21st. November and 7th. December 1991**

ARGOS DISTRIBUTORS LTD. 489-499 AVEBURY BOULEVARD, CE



H

**Argos** £

**£2<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>** Purchases between £20.00 - £29.99 £