

Army to reopen 'stolen' right of way

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John Ardliff

MR ROGER Freeman, the armed forces minister, has promised to reopen one of three footpaths on the Army training range at Lydd in Kent illegally blocked nine years ago. The others are being diverted.

This follows an accusation by Labour Peer and conservationist Lord Melchett that the Ministry was "acting like a common criminal" by stealing the public's right to walk in the countryside.

Lord Melchett, vice-chairman of the Ramblers' Association, said on Saturday that two paths on the range were blocked by fences and a third by a permanently locked gate. But Mr Freeman said the public were permitted under bylaws to use the paths when the ranges were not in use. Because of the risks, agreement had been reached with Kent county council three years ago to divert two of the paths on to a new route.

Formal action to close them should be completed shortly.

Holy Loch security move annoys civilians

By GRAEME STEWART

THE UNITED States Navy has ordered its Scottish civilian employees, who handle nothing more deadly than packets of nappies and crates of beans, not to talk to the BBC, it was claimed last night.

The civilians, who are employed by the US Navy at its Holy Loch base commissary, the equivalent of the NAAFI, at Dunoon, were asked to sign and return a memorandum from Commander Barbara McGann, who is in charge of the shore base, warning them to keep silent if approached by BBC personnel.

One man who refused to comply was Mr Colin Harris (30), a storeman at the commissary in Dunoon's Queen Street. He said: "I refused to sign it because I don't think the US Navy has any right to tell me who to talk to."

Troops threat to peace protest

By TONY CLARK

BRITISH military authorities will crack down hard on peace protesters in times of international tension, a Tory minister threatened yesterday.

After yesterday morning's successful direct action against a convoy in Wiltshire, Armed Forces Minister John Stanley praised police and army.

But he added a sinister rider during Commons' defence questions. In very different international circumstances we would have a very different attitude toward protection of nuclear weapons, he said.

"Shoot to kill," shouted back concerned Labour MPs.

Later, a defence ministry spokesman said that in times of tension, real nuclear warheads are carried on convoys. Then "a whole range of measures" and "new regulations" would be introduced.

"There would be stricter measures," he said, "anyone who interfered with that (nuclear convoys) would do so at his own risk," he threatened.

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Em Pow

WINTEX

exercise protest

AS the government's civil defence exercise round up "subversives" gets underway to hundreds of angry parents are preparing to h themselves into their local police stations.

Wintex '87 is a military exercise on paper, involving no troop movement. It will unite police, military, British Telecom and the Post Office in exercising the control of "subversives" in a lead-up to war.

This week, anti-nuclear campaigners, particularly those who are parents, will be demanding

By JANEY HULME

to know what plans have been made for their children once they have been rounded up and interned.

Most peace campaigners already believe that no such camps will be set up during a crisis period and the best they can expect is "a bullet in the head in some wood somewhere," as one parent remarked.

A CND spokesman explained yesterday that "CND is asking its local groups throughout the country to put the spotlight on,

Civil defence plan provoked parent action

the Wintex exercise, especially the measures designed to press dissent in the transition to war period."

In response to this call, member Diana Shanks Norwich is handing herself her four children aged 12, and 2, into Bethel Street station this week.

She said angrily yesterday "What I want to know is will they come and get me? Will they be armed?"

"Am I expected to go out fuss? What if I refuse? I to be separated from my children? What will become of them?"

Ms. Shanks found it believable when at the age 16 a friend in the police told her she was "on a list" after she joined YCND. Today she no longer finds it hard to believe.

"Most people are still unaware that there is a three-day threshold before military will be forced to resort to battlefield nuclear weapons."

She voiced the fears of thousands of British citizens and down the country where fear and helplessness has increased over the years as Thatcher whips up hatred political dissenters label them "the enemy within."

In Hertfordshire, Adamson parliamentary member for the St. Albans Nuclear armament Campaign (STAN) has written to her MP Lilley about the internment "known subversives."

"Scores of people in Albans are afraid not only themselves but for their children," she said.

"People who have only gently disagreed with the government by hanging doves balloons on US base fence believe they will be rounded up but with their fear they anger," said Ms. Adamson.

NATO nations are also bringing a two-week exercise day, also on paper, Wintex-Cimex simulating onset of World War III.

At the height of the exercise senior West German government staff will leave Bonn head for the nuclear bunker.

The matter of a BBC camera crew visiting the base was unexplained last night. A spokesman at BBC Scotland in Glasgow could find no unit scheduled to go. His counterparts in London also failed to find any plans for a visit.

Coincidentally, this took place just before the screening on BBC Scotland last night of Peter McDougall's latest TV play *Down Where the Buffalo Go*, a hard-hitting story of an American sailor who married a Greenock girl and which was shot entirely in Greenock and Dunoon.

Commander Art Humpheries, at the United States Naval Public Affairs office in London, confirmed that a memo had been circulated. It was to remind people not to talk about classified matters, "and that is absolutely legitimate". "We occasionally remind our people throughout the Navy and US military of their responsibilities in security matters and Holy Loch being a submarine facility is an area of high security," he said.

But when asked about a visit by a BBC crew he could only reply that the BBC in London frequently asked for permission to film there.

Mr Alan Miller, chairman of