

G.H.
11/6/85

WORLD

British Polaris submarine in collision

CAPE CANAVERAL, Monday. A NUCLEAR-powered British missile submarine preparing to dive off the Florida coast collided with a commercial fishing vessel, injuring the four people aboard the civilian boat, the US Coast Guard said.

The 425-foot submarine Resolution and the 57-foot fishing vessel Proud Mary, from Fort Pierce, collided about 9.30 p.m. on Sunday, 13 miles south-east of Port Canaveral, said Chief Petty Officer Bob Baeten, a Coast Guard spokesman in Miami, Florida.

One of the submarine's diving fins, mounted on its hull about 100 feet from the bow, sliced into the Proud Mary's wooden hull, leaving a 15-by-6-foot gash above the waterline.

A woman crew member from the Proud Mary was hospitalised with a broken kneecap. Three other members of the crew were treated for cuts.

None of the 143 men aboard the submarine was believed to be injured. Damage to the submarine was unknown.

On Monday, the Resolution successfully launched a Polaris missile while cruising 30 miles off Cape Canaveral.

HOME NEWS

G.H. 27/7/85

Go-ahead for CND move on phone taps

LEADERS of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament were yesterday given leave to go ahead with an attempt to stop members' phone calls being tapped.

Granting them permission to apply for anti-phone tapping orders against the Home Secretary, High Court Judge Mr Justice Forbes said there was "an arguable point of law."

The Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, was not represented at the brief hearing.

The CND's action seeks

orders preventing the Home Secretary giving permission to intercept or monitor CND telephone calls and from renewing any permission already given.

They are also seeking a declaration that Mr Brittan's decision to allow the telephone tapping of CND vice-president, Mr John Cox, was unlawful. No date was fixed for the full hearing.

Afterwards, Ms Joan Ruddock, chair of CND, said she was delighted the Judge had granted leave.

The tapping of Mr Cox's

telephone came to light when the ex-MI5 officer Cathy Massiter referred to the issue on the Channel Four television programme, "MI5's Official Secrets" said Ms Ruddock.

The CND would be contending at the full hearing of the case that the tapping had been done for party political reasons and not on the ground of national security.

"There is no question of CND wanting to overturn the State. Far from it. We support the democratic state," said Ms Ruddock.

28.5.85

Pacific evacuation attacked by US

From Paul Brown aboard the Rainbow Warrior, Marshall Islands

The United States has defended itself at the United Nations Trusteeship Council for its handling of nuclear contamination in the Pacific and claimed that the Rongelap people's evacuation is unnecessary.

The UN has to agree to a compact between the United States and the Marshall Islands' government, giving the 35,000 inhabitants some self government but the US continued use of missile bases and sole rights in defence.

Opposition is increasing in the Marshalls to the compact's terms: giving financial compensation for nuclear contamination but taking away the right of the people of Bikini and other contaminated islands to sue the US in their courts. Several multi-million dollar suits are pending.

Greenpeace's evacuation of the Rongelap people brought new attention to the issue of nuclear contamination and radiation-related illnesses among islanders.

The US has claimed that the Rongelap atoll is no more radioactive than Denver, and that Greenpeace and the islanders have overemphasised the problem.

Mr Steve Sawyer, Greenpeace's campaign director aboard the Rainbow Warrior, which is carrying out the evacuation's final stages, said: "As an American citizen I find the US's callous disregard for the victims of its nuclear test programme to be absolutely shameful."

He said the reference to Denver was interesting, "since Denver is built partly on landfill composed of nuclear waste, it is very near the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons lab, and Denver's claim to fame is that it is 'one mile high' and therefore exposed to a great deal more natural solar radiation than an atoll at sea level."

Senator Jeton Anjain of Rongelap asked why, if the people were not sick, US scientists came twice a year to check their health.

The Marshall Islands government supports the compact, partly through a desire for independence and partly because it needs US help to pay international debts.

Micronesia is the last of 11 UN trust territories created after the last war which has not gained independence.

The trusteeship council is dominated by the US, Britain and France. The compact is expected to be passed, although the US is likely to face criticism from China and USSR.