



Campaign *for the* Accountability of American Bases

News & Appeal Issue

No. 26: November 2004

Dear friends

Apologies for not getting this newsletter to you before now. We were too busy to get it out and then postponed publication until the outcome of the US election was known.

Now that it is known, it's hard to know quite how to respond. We received various emails from the States saying that John Kerry won – that it was in fact the voting machines that skewed the result.

Whatever ...George W Bush is back for a second term – by law he is prohibited from doing a third term. Apparently those who voted him in did so because of 'moral' values ...

While we publish, terrible attacks and weaponry are being rained down on Fallujah and other towns in Iraq. It is difficult to square the 'morals' of these horrific, immoral and unspeakable actions. It is shameful and not done in our name.

Now the US election has been decided, George W Bush will probably announce that Missile Defense is 'deployed' and ready to intercept any enemy intercontinental ballistic missile heading for, and intent on attacking the United States. The system is far from ready and studies reveal that it is a long way off from actually being 'deployed'. In the meantime, Geoff Hoon signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the US which drags us further into this crazy and dangerous system. We have to speak out –

become 'whistle blowers' and take every opportunity to expose and resist the duplicitous actions and decisions of the UK government.

We can, we will, we must - STOP 'STAR WARS'

"A little patience, and we shall see the reign of witches pass over, their spells

dissolve, and the people, recovering their true sight, restore their government to its true principles ... in the meantime we are suffering deeply in spirit, and incurring the horrors of a war and long oppressions of enormous public debt..."

- Thomas Jefferson, from a letter he sent in 1798 after the passage of the Sedition Act



Latest satellite dish at NSA/USAF Menwith Hill – now covered by a 100 metre radome - bringing total number to 30.

AROUND THE BASES

NSA/USAF MENWITH HILL **(near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)**

Planning Applications since last newsletter:

PA No: 6.90.219.D.CROWND – Replacement of Salt Bin [for road gritting] – approximately 5mtrs high x 5mtrs long x 5mtrs wide with pitched roof with supporting wooden strut [A-framed and open-ended] – next to Building 52A, south of Skate Pad on ‘Wenseleydale Road’.

PA No: 6.90.350.CROWND – Erection of Electricity Sub Station and Standby Generator near existing Sub Station DSSC - critical for revamp of Building 25 – Two Portacabins to be removed from side of Building 25 and put into storage to make room for Sub Station. [Passed with No Observations or Objections on 23 August 2004]

PA No: 6.500.247.CROWND – Type 300 Housing Refurbishment – [Yet to be Determined]

Construction: The Ground Terminal radome – referred to as GT7 (as reported in CAAB 25) is now complete. We put the photo of the satellite dish on to the front page so as to give an idea of what is under the radomes.

‘Keep Space for Peace’ – 2 October 2004: The police outnumbered the demonstrators by about 5 - 1, when we gathered to protest at the crucial role Menwith Hill is playing in the American Missile Defense System. This is the fourth year that CAAB has organised this demonstration – see report on CAAB website.

There had been an unspoken agreement from the police that bail conditions imposed on Lindis would be relaxed for the demonstration as was the case on 4 July this year. No police officer had mentioned that she was in breach of the conditions throughout the day. She was suddenly arrested by Sergeant Petty (North Yorkshire Police) after nearly completing the guided walk around the base.

The unnecessary arrest of Lindis was a distressing incident and ended the demonstration in somewhat of a sour note. Lindis was taken to Harrogate Police Station and held until Monday morning - to appear at Harrogate Magistrates' Court. The case should have been heard before the court started its business but was not heard until 2.45 pm. She defended herself and said she was in breach of the bail conditions 'by

default'. The Magistrates retired and returned to impose the same conditions. Unusually they made no comment as to whether Lindis had or had not breached the bail conditions. Lindis quietly spoke to the Magistrates about the unacceptable practice of keeping people in detention for longer than necessary, when they have already been held in police and court custody. On many occasions the court has asked Lindis to ‘give way’ so that someone who is held in custody could be heard before her. Of course she has always agreed.

Lindis has since been in correspondence with the Chairman of the Bench. The reply came from Richard Irwin (Clerk) who said that he was not persuaded and therefore there would be no change. Lindis has now written to the Lord Chancellor and awaits a reply as to court policy on prisoners held longer than necessary.

Arrests and Court: We have continued to pursue the precious right to protest – with particular reference the case of Hirst and Agu v the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police (1986). This case gives each of us lawful excuse to obstruct the highway for a short time (undefined but known as a ‘de minimus’ obstruction).

The Ministry of Defence Police Agency would like us to stand at the side of the main entrance to Menwith Hill, so fulfilling the wishes of their ‘customers’ – the American authorities who clearly would rather we were not there each Tuesday night.

One of the reasons for protest is to bring the protest to those who you are protesting against. We have found over many years that it is now more effective to stand holding the upside down US flag with a political statement written on it, in front of each car leaving the base. We have done this many times (safely) as cars are leaving the base.

As Mr Justice Stephen Sedley said: **“Free speech includes not only the inoffensive but the irritating, the contentious, the eccentric, the heretical, the unwelcome and the provocative provided it does not tend to provoke violence. Freedom only to speak inoffensively is not worth having”.** (Redmond-Bate v DPP – LJ Sedley and Collins – QBD 1999)

Over the four and a half years CAAB and others have regularly been at Menwith Hill on a Tuesday evening, the Ministry of Defence Police Agency have tried many ways to restrict and control this demonstration. They have plucked out of their ‘tool box’ alleged offences such as ‘obstruction of a police officer in the execution of his/her duty’ (this has

applied mostly to the presence of a 'traffic' officer whose sole purpose it appears, is to make sure that the traffic leaving the base does so without being slowed down for any reason.

Since May this year, Lindis has been arrested (to date) 19 times during this protest. She has been spuriously arrested for 'aggravated trespass' – s.69, 'obstruction of a police officer in the execution of his duty' (the 'traffic' officer), 'obstruction of the highway' and many spurious arrests for alleged 'breach of bail conditions' (most of these arrests have not been proved by Harrogate Magistrates). Lindis has been charged 11 times and has 9 actual cases in the court.

It is terribly important to maintain and uphold the right to protest as authorized by the case of 'Hirst and Agu' – which we will continue to do. [Refer to CAAB website for reports of many of these arrests.]

The 'yellow line': Anni and Lindis will be in Harrogate Magistrates' Court for a trial on 22 November 2004 at 10 am when a District Judge will hear whether they committed an alleged offence of 'obstruction of the highway'. The legality of the 'yellow line' will be challenged..

Byelaws case discontinued: On 5 July 2004 Anni received a letter from the Crown Prosecution Service to say that the offence under the RAF Menwith Hill byelaws was to be discontinued – see CAAB 25.

Parliamentary Visit: Members of the UK Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) made a full day official visit to Menwith Hill on Monday 18 October 2004. We understand that they 'enjoyed' a tour of the base and met a cross-section of US and UK personnel employed there.

Chair of the Committee, Ann Taylor (MP for Dewsbury) said: 'This is the fifth time the ISC has visited the base since the Committee was formed in 1994. We were able to thank the staff for the vital contribution they make to the security of the UK, while satisfying ourselves that all aspects of their work comply with our over-sight remit.'

Allowing time for travel and meals could not have left much time for the Committee to satisfy themselves as to the full workings of the base. The fact that their 'over-sight remit' is not included in the ISC published Reports (available to the public) gives rise to some scepticism.

We would be very surprised if the Committee were party to **all** that goes on at Menwith Hill.

'RAF' FYLINGDALES **(near Pickering, North Yorkshire)**

Latest Planning Applications:

PA No: NYM/2004/0667 - Replacement of Bog Fuel Installation Tanks and Pipework (back of base near generators).

This PA was passed on 1 November 2004 with the following 'observation': *Details of external colour finish of the tanks hereby committed shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the tanks first being brought into use and therefore the tanks shall be coloured and maintained in the approved colour.* [The Planning Administration Office at Helmsley do not know the colour specified, as they only get a copy of the 'observation' - they assume it is green.] The base is in the National Park.

Star Wars deal places US missiles on UK soil:

A recent report in the Independent on Sunday by Francis Elliott and Severin Carrell on 17 October 2004 announced that Tony Blair has secretly agreed to allow President Bush to site US missiles on British soil as part of the new US "Son of Star Wars" programme. It went on to say that Downing Street has given an agreement 'in principle' to the Pentagon to site interceptor missiles at RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire. We wonder if this would ever be allowed to happen given the huge opposition that would ensue and the fact that the base is in the National Park – among other reasons. Bulgaria, Poland and Romania have all expressed a keen interest in siting US interceptor missiles. The MoD were quick to deny that interceptor missiles were to be sited at Fylingdales.

Local Council Motions: As a result of recent Press speculation regarding the possible siting of interceptor missiles for AMD at Fylingdales, both North Yorkshire County Council and Ryedale District Council have submitted motions calling for government clarity on the role and function of the base. Ryedale District Council is also calling for a Public Enquiry.

Resolution at County Council Meeting – 27

October 2004: 12 O'clock Motion – Stationing of American Missiles – RESOLVED – North Yorkshire County Council:

- Notes with concern the report in the Independent on Sunday (17.10.04) and other publications stating that American interceptor missiles are to be stationed on British soil at RAF Fylingdales in North Yorkshire.

- Notes that the Ministry of Defence has stated that there are no current plans for major developments at the RAF Fylingdales site other than those already announced to the EW radar and that future major developments are unlikely
- Urges the Ministry of Defence to reaffirm its commitment to consultation with the local authorities and others on issues relating to RAF Fylingdales.
- Undertakes to continue playing a full and active role in any discussions pertaining to the future of RAF Fylingdales, in the process working to secure the best outcome for the local community, county and national interest.
- Requests the Leader of the Council to press the Minister for an early reply to his letter of 19 October and to provide all members of the Council with a copy of that reply.
- Undertakes to write to the Ministry of Defence asking for cast-iron assurances that it has no plans to allow the stationing of US interceptor missiles in North Yorkshire.

Motion to Ryedale District Council for Full Council, 11 November 2004: In view of the lack of clarity over the status of RAF Fylingdales:

- Once again the government has not consulted/informed over potential change of use for “Fylingdales”.
- The request from the US government re – “Fylingdales will not be ‘decided’ until after the General Election.”
- The potential escalation of the military threat to the UK in general and Ryedale in particular.
- The previous lack of information and the feeding of people of Ryedale with ‘reassurances’.

So as to clarify the present position and prevent this unacceptable repeated this Council calls for a Public Enquiry into Fylingdales.

This enquiry to cover:

- The alleged request by the US to site inceptor missiles in silos at Fylingdales.
- The need, if any, for ‘Fylingdales’ in a National Park.
- If ‘Fylingdales’ is needed for the defence of the UK.
- What purpose ‘Fylingdales’ serves.
- Any other area that is requested by a large number of people of Ryedale Yorkshire or UK in a pre-enquiry consultation.

Proposed: J S Clark

Seconded: N Trevelyan

Memorandum of Understanding signed: Missile Defence

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): The Ministry of Defence has signed an agreement setting out mechanisms for co-operation with the US in research, development, test and evaluation activities related to missile defence. This agreement is made under the framework memorandum of understanding on missile defence that I announced to the House on 12 June 2003, *Official Report*, column 57WS, and comes into immediate effect. I am placing in the Library of the House of Commons a copy of this agreement, **although parts of the text relating to the handling of classified and export-controlled information have been withheld at the request of the US.** This agreement replaces the 1985 strategic defence initiative memorandum of understanding as the vehicle for cooperation between the UK and US in the field of missile defence. It is intended that the new agreement will improve co-operation by providing information transfer and contracting mechanisms in keeping with current US and UK practices and the current state of development of the US missile defence capability. [We have a copy of the above MofU].

Control again: Lindis was warned by a Ministry of Defence Police officer under s.69 ‘aggravated trespass’ (not to return within 3 months) at the ‘Switch Off Star Wars’ demonstration on 25 September 2004 at Fylingdales, organised by Yorkshire CND, Fylingdales Action Network and National CND.

USAF LAKENHEATH/USAF MILDENHALL and the DEEP SPACE TRACKING CENTER and NEAR SPACE FACILITY at FELTWELL (near Brandon, Bury St Edmunds, Cams/Norfolk)

Final plea – 21 August 2004: CAAB protested at the main entrance, holding an upside down US flag with the words “PLEASE VOTE HIM OUT” - using the authority of Hirst and Agu to stand in front of cars exiting the base. A similar protest was made at USAF Mildenhall and at the Deep Space Tracking Center and Near Space Facility at Feltwell– just up the road. A long tail back of cars built up after CAAB drew the attention of a Ministry of Defence Police Agency officer to the case of Hirst and Agu. An official complaint was made after a 4 x 4 vehicle tried to run Lindis down.

US Nuclear store: A recent report suggested that there are more nuclear weapons stored at USAF Lakenheath than was originally thought – this is the only base in England where US nuclear weapons are stored. CAAB is researching this in the meantime.

USAF CROUGHTON **(near Brackley, Northants)**

Important visit: We had alerted Oxford Peace Campaign about this visit. CAAB was present when Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong paid a fleeting visit to USAF Croughton on Friday/Saturday 8/9 October 2004. While the General slept, houses and cars on base were leafleted with a message from CAAB for the General.

MESSAGE from the CAMPAIGN FOR THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF AMERICAN BASES (CAAB) to the 4 STAR GENERAL visiting USAF CROUGHTON – Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong – Commander of US Air Forces in Europe

Dear Doc

- **Since the invasion of Iraq by the US/UK led forces, the world has become a far more dangerous world. It was folly to invade this country that posed no threat.**
- **The US government has put the world in crisis.**
- **The crazy, costly and dangerous American Missile Defense System is being publicized as ready – soon to be announced as being 'deployed' This is not true – it does not work.**
- **We work towards the day when the US Visiting Forces and their Agencies in the UK return to within their borders.**

Please go down the path of alternatives to violence – what you are engaged in will lead to disaster.

An upside down US 'Stars and Stripes' -with the words 'FOR A HEALTHY AND SAFER WORLD - VOTE HIM OUT' written on it - was raised on the main flag pole on base. CAAB was on base for about two hours and left having had no contact with the security patrols.

Traffic coming into the base was held up for a while when CAAB stood with an upside down US flag - 'INDEPENDENCE FROM AMERICA ' and a banner with 'STOP STAR WARS' written on it.

The General left USAF Croughton at about 9 am on Saturday 9 October - CAAB was prevented by police from following his convoy - destination unknown.

High Court, London: The appeal by way of 'case stated' against the conviction of Lindis at Northampton Magistrates' Court (see newsletter 24 or website) will be heard in the High Court London on 18 and 19 November 2004. The case will raise interesting questions as to whether English courts

can adjudicate on the legality of war. The hearing had been set for 16 –17 June 2004 but was removed from the Court List a few days before when a case was heard first, involving five protestors who entered USAF Fairford during the invasion of Iraq.

From Rene and David Gill – Oxford CND:

Evan Harris MP asked some questions about USAF Croughton. The Directorate of Air Staff (MoD) replied:

“...RAF Croughton is the home of the United States Air Force 422 Air Base Squadron... [which] is USAF's premier communications and information service provider in the European theatre, providing USAF, Joint, and Combined operations with strategic and expeditionary communications.

RAF Croughton is also home to the Regional Technical Centre (RITC) Europe, an annex of the US Department of State. RITC Europe's mission is to relay satellite and land line Diplomatic telecommunications ... between the US and US State Department facilities in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Indian Sub-Continent.

RAF Croughton's communications facilities are also used for NATO security purposes. The Digital European Backbone Communications site at RAF Barford St John works in conjunction with the facilities at RAF Croughton relaying both military and diplomatic communications across the globe.”

JAC MOLESWORTH **(near Cambridge)**

Useful Website: For comprehensive information about JAC Molesworth click on to:
<http://www.303rdbga.com/h-postwar.html>

- CAAB visited JAC Molesworth on Sunday 22 August 2004 to research the base and was there for over three hours.

SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Mr Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the Government intend to vote on the UN Security Council resolution 1487, moved by the United States, relating to the renewal of the mandate of the International Criminal Court; and if he will make a statement. [176433]

A: Mr Rammell: *UN Security Council resolutions 1487 (2003) and 1422 (2002) provided a 12-month*

exemption from ICC investigation for UN peacekeepers who are citizens of states which are not parties to the ICC Statute. Both resolutions are consistent with the ICC Statute.

Although we understand US concerns about the ICC and their reasons for wanting the resolution rolled-over for a further 12 months, we do not share them. However, we recognise that those concerns are still firmly held by the US with possibly serious implications for UN Security Council-mandated operations. The Government attach the utmost importance to maintaining the effectiveness and efficiency of United Nations peacekeeping operations. They are therefore ready to support a roll-over of UNSCR 1487 while urging the US to recognise that a further resolution next year will not be necessary.

The UK is firmly committed to the ICC. We are one of the court's strongest supporters. We continue to work for an effective court and to encourage other states to become parties to it. [07.06.2004]

Q: Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he permits US forces based in the UK to hold (a) chemical and (b) biological (i) weapons and (ii) counter-weapon material. [178707]

A: Mr Hoon: There are no United States chemical or biological weapons held in the United Kingdom. Both the US and UK are States Parties to the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons

Convention (BTWC). The BTWC prohibits the development, manufacture, acquisition, and stockpiling of any biological weapons.

The US is a declared possessor of chemical weapons under the terms of the CWC and is in the process of destroying its stockpiles under Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons supervision.

Both the CWC and BTWC provide for States Parties to maintain programmes to protect against chemical and biological weapons. [18.06.2004]

Q: Mr Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government has spent on its participation in the United States-led development of a missile defence shield; and how much he plans to spend over the next year. [176375]

A: Mr Hoon: For the period up to 31 March 2004 I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 19 January 2004, Official Report, column 920W, to the hon. Member for Hereford (Mr. Keetch). For financial year 2004–05 expenditure by the United

Kingdom on research specific to Ballistic Missile Defence technology will be in the order of £6 million. [07.06.2004]

Q: Norman Baker: If he will make a statement on the forward plans for RAF Menwith Hill. [179376]

A: Mr Ingram: A long-term plan is being developed by a joint UK-US team to improve some of the ageing infrastructure on the site. That may lead to the demolition of some of the older buildings and their replacement by modern facilities that, wherever possible, will be more in keeping with the rural landscape. Base authorities are working closely with the local planning authority to agree suitable architectural standards and guidelines. There are no plans to change the base's current role and mission. [21.06.2004]

Q: Norman Baker: The Minister will know that there is some controversy over RAF Menwith Hill. He accepts, I hope, that it is in the interests of and it is the duty of Members of Parliament to ensure that the base operates in the British national interest. Is he therefore content that, when I asked to visit the base, his predecessor told me that he would have to check with the American Administration first and came back most apologetically to tell me that the Americans would not allow me to visit an RAF base? Is it now British policy that the Americans decide whether Members of Parliament can visit RAF bases? [Oral PQ: 21.06.2004]

A: Mr Hoon: I am not fully aware of all the matter related by the hon. Gentleman concerning his previous request. I would have to look into that to find out the nature of his request, why he wanted a visit, what issues he wanted to discuss, and the relevance of all that. I will look into his earlier request, but the important thing is not to whip up suspicion about what is undoubtedly an important part of our defence interests as well as those of the US. The installation is important and, as I said, there are no plans to change its role or mission as part of the current reconstruction. [21.06.2004]

Q: Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many detainees, and how many shipments of detainees, have passed through Diego Garcia, or the territorial waters off it, while in transit between other destinations; whether any detainees have been disembarked at Diego Garcia, and for how long; and if he will make a statement. [178581]

A: Mr. Straw: The United States authorities have repeatedly assured us that no detainees have at any

time passed in transit through Diego Garcia or its territorial waters or have disembarked there and that the allegations to that effect are totally without foundation. The Government are satisfied that their assurances are correct. [21.06.2004]

Q: Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the US authorities about basing missile defence interceptor sites in the UK. [174567]

A: Geoff Hoon: The Ministry of Defence continues to discuss with the United States a wide range of ballistic missile defence issues. The Government have not yet decided whether the United Kingdom requires its own missile defence, and these discussions do not therefore involve specific architectures or basing assumptions. [25.05.2004]

Q: Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to his answer of 28 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 138W, whether the UK Government and US Administration have concluded that, in the light of circumstances prevailing at this time, the US should base chemical and biological counter-weapon materials on UK territory; [182856]

(2) pursuant to his answer of 28 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 150W, whether the UK Government and US Administration have concluded, in the light of circumstances prevailing at this time, that US aircraft armed with nuclear weapons may use UK airspace. [182857]

A: Mr. Hoon: I am withholding this information under Exemption 1 (Defence, security and international relations) of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. [12.07.2004]

Q: Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, at what percentage of RAF bases RAF personnel are outnumbered by US personnel. [184492]

A: Mr. Ingram: There are 10 RAF bases where RAF personnel are outnumbered by the United States personnel, which is approximately 17 per cent. of the principal RAF bases in the United Kingdom. [19.07.2004]

Q: Mr. Best: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will provide an update on the situation of the British Guantanamo detainees. [183318]

A: Mr. Mullin: The Government have consistently sought to resolve the position of the British nationals detained at Guantanamo Bay. Our position is that the British detainees should either be tried fairly in accordance with international standards or returned to the United Kingdom.

Following discussions with the US Government, led for the Government by my noble Friend the Attorney-General, we concluded that the US military commission process would not provide sufficient guarantees of a fair trial in accordance with international standards. The Government therefore asked that all nine British detainees be returned to the UK. Five were returned in March.

Following a visit by officials to Washington in May, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister repeated our request that the remaining four detainees be returned to the UK. We continue to work to resolve their situation. [21.07.2004]

SHAKING the BUCKET

The escalation of CAAB activities described in this newsletter is, regrettably and unavoidably, accompanied by an increase in the costs of campaigning. Your continuing support is so much appreciated, and any extra donations you can make will be well and carefully used. Thank you.

Christine Dean, Hon. Treasurer

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.....With love and peace.....
Anni and Lindis

**2004 QUAKER MEETINGS FOR
WORSHIP**

USAF Menwith Hill: Saturdays - 4 Dec 2004, and for 2005 - 5 Feb, 2 April, 4 June, 6 Aug, 1 Oct, and 3 Dec - from 2pm - 3pm outside the Main Entrance.

'RAF' Fylingdales: For 2005 - Saturdays - 1 Jan, 5 March, 7 May, 2 July, 3 Sept, and 5 Nov - from 12pm - 1pm outside the Approach Road Entrance at Fylingdales, Near Pickering, North Yorkshire Moors.

Contact Numbers for both Meetings: Anni: 01943 466405 or Lindis: 01482 702033

USAF Croughton: Contact Rachel and Paul Milling email: paul@milling.freeserve.co.uk

USAF Fairford: Contact Mary Jeans:

email: MaryRJeans@aol.com

and finally.....

**TALKS, WORKSHOPS AND
INTERVIEWS**

Contributed to 'Unite for Peace' weekend – Eirene Centre Clopton (Molesworth); speaker at Quaker conference – 'Witness' – workshop on 'Community' – Bath; Kingston Peace Council – interviews; Look North; Radio Leeds; Radio Humberside; Stray FM; Yorkshire Coast Radio.....

For information please contact:

**CAAB, 8 Park Row, Otley, West Yorkshire
LS21 1HQ, England, UK**

Tel./Fax No: 01943 466405 or 01482 702033

email: anniandlindis@caab.org.uk or

caab@btclick.co

web-site: <http://www.caab.org.uk>

STOP PRESS

The case in the High Court fixed for 18/19 November (see item under USAF Croughton) was suddenly postponed until February 2005 when other pending cases may be joined.