

Turkish developments

Six leading members of the Turkish Peace Association have been released from prison on bail until their appeal against heavy sentences comes before a court next year.

Mahmut Dikerdem, president of the TPA, rang his son Dr Mehmet Ali Dikerdem, in London with this news immediately after he was released. Five of the six now on bail were sentenced to five years' imprisonment by a military tribunal for their part in the activities of the Peace Association; Mahmut Dikerdem received a sentence of eight years, and as he is 68 and suffering from cancer this was regarded almost as a death sentence.

Meanwhile, persecution of members of the TPA continues with a new trial. Forty-eight founder members of the Peace Association are being tried by another tribunal. They include five lawyers who were due to appear for the defence at the appeal - so the defence is deliberately being handicapped.

Mahmut Dikerdem has written to Phil Bolsover:

'At last I am free thanks to the admirable support we received from you and all our peace-loving friends. But I cannot enjoy fully my liberty since my colleagues from TPA are still under custody.

I beg you not to relax your moral pressure on those responsible.

I shall stay for a while in hospital for medical control. - With my deep gratitude.'

Collective endorsements for Mahmut Dikerdem's nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize should be sent to: The Director, Nobel Instituttet, Drammensveien 9, 0255 Oslo 2, Norway.

For further information contact Dr M.A. Dikerdem, 13 Bolton Walk, Andover Estate, London N7 (01-263 4476). ● Phil Bolsover

Deterrence - shrunk to size

Psychiatrists, psychologists and academics are now addressing themselves to what has been the government's greatest propaganda asset - the theory of deterrence.

At a symposium in Cambridge on November 3rd entitled 'The Human Factor in Today's Cold war', organised jointly by the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons and Psychologists for Peace, they made the deterrence theory look as leaky as the Ministry of Defence.

For example, Professor James Thompson of the Middlesex Hospital pointed out that the 50 years of peace in Europe between the Crimean War

and the First World War were attributed to an ultimate deterrent - the machine gun.

And Dr James Dyer of Edinburgh University stressed the danger of adhering to Neanderthal ideas that are relevant only to the pre-nuclear age. Terms such as 'position of strength' and 'margin of safety' have no meaning any more. But the problem is to convince people that the theory of deterrence is not god-given but deeply irrational.

Dr Dyer suggested that all responses which inhibit our basic instinct for survival are sick and highly dangerous. It is therefore vital that the anti-nuclear movement works to persuade people to take back their human responsibility for survival.

The Medical Campaign is hoping that the proceedings will be published, and can give more information on 0223 313828. ● Gill Reeve

Nuclear power in school

Test your knowledge of nuclear electricity. The UK Atomic Energy Authority is planning a schools project competition for 9 to 13-year-olds. Illustrated storyboards, a teacher's guide and background leaflets will be provided.

Teachers and students will be glad to know that 'our nuclear power stations have proved safe, clean, reliable and economical.' The problems of nuclear waste disposal are kept firmly in proportion: 'Some [industrial] wastes, such as those containing mercury or cadmium, retain their initial toxic levels forever, whereas the radioactivity of nuclear waste decreases with time.' In addition, 'The maximum annual dose [of radiation] from the nuclear industry is less than the variations in natural background level between different parts of the country. . . . No member of the public has died or been injured as a result of an accident involving radioactivity at a nuclear power station.'

The UKAEA would love you to take part. But as they point out, 'We can't have a competition unless there are plenty of competitors.' Write to them at Room 119, Information Services Branch, UK Atomic Energy Authority, 11 Charles II Street, London SW1Y 4YW.

Alternatively, it might be worth suggesting to Sir Keith Joseph (House of Commons, London SW1) that he use his influence with Peter Walker to ensure a balanced presentation of the issues.

More information from Friends of the Earth, 01-837 0731.

Cruise convoys latest

Cruise convoys from Greenham have (as at time of writing) been out on three road tests and five dispersal exercises. The latter, with the exception of one at Longmoor, Hants, have all taken place in the Tidworth area of the Salisbury Plain.

The rough terrain of the Plain is not good for sensitive equipment, so the tendency now is to use only the cabs of the launchers and control vehicles on these exercises, which consist of a mini-MX-style scuttle from copse to copse, practising camping up and decamping in each. Open trenches, blank ammunition and trip-wires, plus American fag packets, get left behind when they go, and launcher cabs go missing. The launcher cabs may be finding a new home in your area, so look out for them. Phone Campaign Atom at once if you get a sighting 0865 726441.

PARLIAMENT

Air-Land cover-up



At the December meeting of NATO defence ministers, the biggest change in NATO strategy in 20 years is expected to be endorsed - yet the House of Commons has paid scant attention to the subject. Ministers have been closely questioned about Air-Land Battle and Follow on Force Attack and their implications for Britain. A cover-up of Belgrano proportions is taking place. . . but whether it is deliberate or through ignorance we have yet to find out.

Put in its simplest terms, these strategies involve the use of Cruise and F111's based in Britain to carry out what is quaintly referred to in US Army journals as a nuclear *blitzkrieg*.

The subject was raised in a recent Army debate and again in an Adjournment debate, but Toby Jessel (C-Twickenham) preferred to talk about military marching bands in the former, and in the latter Ted Leadbitter (Lab-Hartlepool) suggested that NATO should not be criticised, nor should the House of Commons (for its apparent indifference)! This despite revelations that General Rogers had publicly announced the military committee's agenda 3 days before Heseltine and Stanley, in a written answer to Ann Clwyd (Lab-Cynon Valley) said such business was confidential! Anyone who is concerned about democracy will be offended at this behaviour, and MPs should be asked to determine whether Michael Heseltine and John Stanley have misled the House or 'told an untruth' (parliamentary language again). ■