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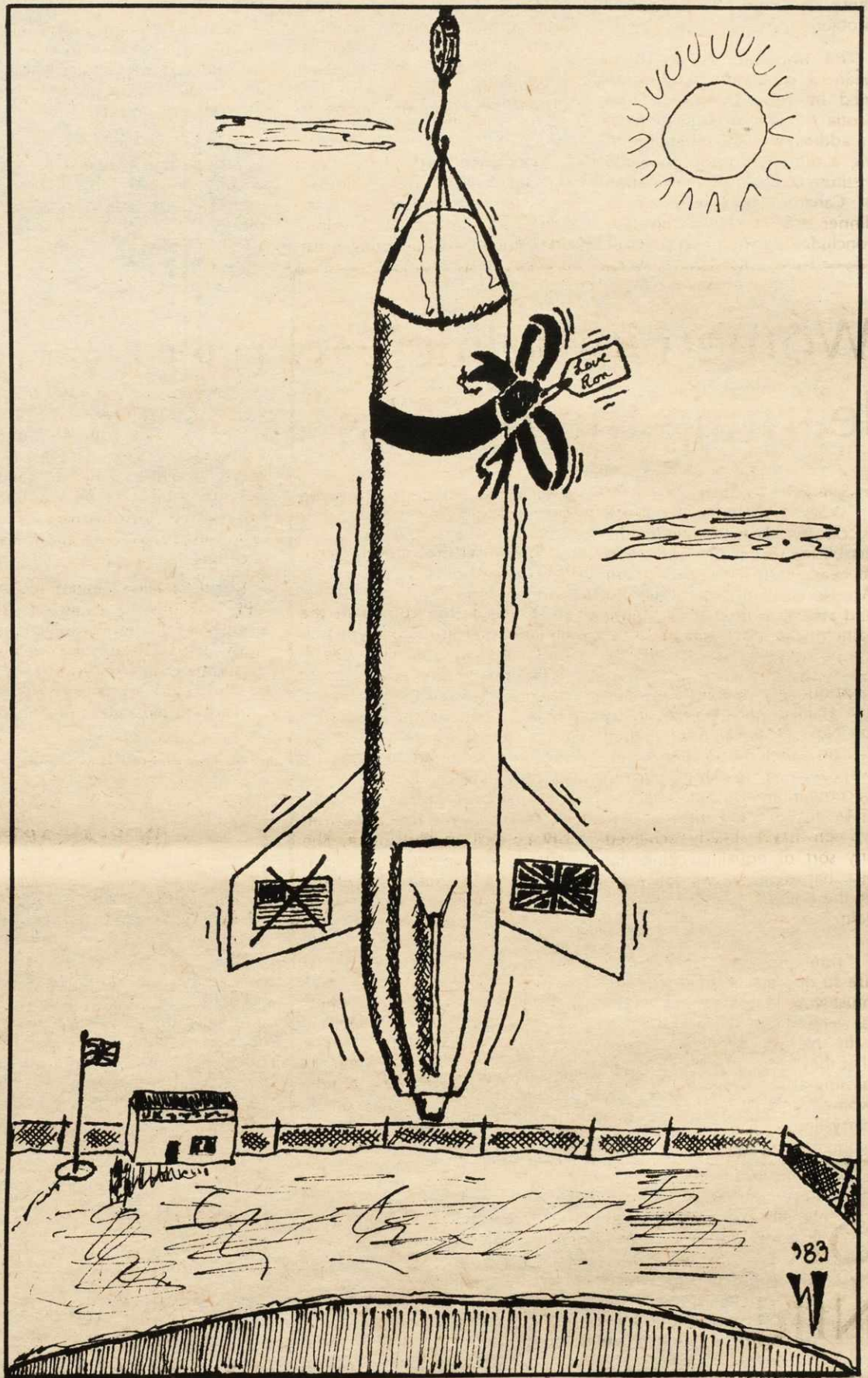
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Bombs are bad says Dr. Berit As



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by Brian Cox

"Nuclear disarmament is destroying democracy," says Dr. Berit As, visiting professor at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Dr. As recently spoke to a Halifax Project Ploughshares meeting on the escalating arms race in Europe.

Dr. As said one of the fundamental reasons for the recent arms buildup is political misjudgement. "The politicians are not listening to the majority of the people," said Dr. As. She explained that the British government is deploying cruise and mid-range nuclear missiles after 78 per cent of polled voters denounced the placement of the

American weapons in their country.

"Nuclear armament is destroying democracy," As said.

As has not lost all faith in the democratic system; she believes there is a democratic solution. As an example she cited Defense Minister Dr. Krusingin. Dr. Krusingin promoted a petition directed against the deployment of nuclear weapons in his country. Krusingin presented the petition (that contained more than 1,000,000 signatures) to his parliament. The parliament voted against deployment of nuclear arms in the Netherlands. "People are starting to understand the potentially terrible effects a nuclear war would have and are calling on politicians to put a stop to this threat," As said.

"The deployment of the cruise missiles in Europe poses a great threat to world peace," said Dr. As. As said the American government would accept a nuclear war in Europe. The Soviet Union is geographically linked to Europe and therefore within easy strike range of U.S. missiles, said As. "The close proximity of U.S. missiles to Soviet targets could cause the U.S. to launch a surprise first strike attack on the U.S.S.R.," she said.

Dr. As blames President Reagan and his office for the impending crisis. She described them as "old dying men, who will control the world even if they have to destroy it."

Dr. As is visiting Mount Saint Vincent University until February.