

PREMIERE SHOWING

# THE TRIAL OF THE AVCO PLOWSHARES

Guest Speaker:  
**RAMSEY CLARK**



“A film that needs to be seen by the judiciary.  
There is no reason for the courts to be afraid of the  
law.”

Ramsey Clark  
Former U.S. Attorney General

#### THE TRIAL OF THE AVCO

PLOWSHARES, a seventy-five minute documentary produced by award-winning video makers, Julie Gustafson and John Reilly, captures what ultimately became a forum on the imminence of nuclear war and the rights of citizens to commit civil disobedience in order to prevent such a war. For the first time in an American court, defendants who had broken the law to protect nuclear weapons were allowed to argue before a jury that they were justified in their actions.

The only time cameras have ever been permitted in the courtroom to record a trial of political activists, this videotape documents the emotionally charged struggle between prosecution, judge and defendants over the use of the "justification" defense. An extraordinary array of defense witnesses are called, including George Wald, Admiral Gene LaRocque, Daniel Ellsberg, Paul Walker, Richard Falk, Howard Zinn, Daniel Berrigan, and Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor of Hiroshima. These witnesses address in graphic and compelling terms, the reality of nuclear war, the nature of first strike weapons, the dangers of false alarms, the fallacy of deterrence, the inability of citizens to influence U.S. foreign policy, and the use of civil disobedience in the achieving of every major social change in American history.

Present for the Opening  
will be

Julie Gustafson and John Reilly of GLOBAL VILLAGE

Robert Hernandez, Esq. trial attorney for the defense

Defendants Agnes Bauerlein, Macy Morse, Mary Lyons,  
John Pendelton, and Frank Panopoulos (just released from  
prison in Rhode Island), and Jean Holladay.

**Monday, October 20**  
**at 7:30 p.m.**

**Yale Art Gallery Lecture Hall**

(High St. Entrance between Chapel St. & Elm St.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL THE ISALAH PEACE MINISTRY - 203-562-7935

Co-sponsored by the Isaiah Peace Ministry and the Office of the Chaplain, Yale University  
Endorsed by (partial listing): Yale Divinity School Disarmament Group, Witness for Disarmament,  
Students for Peace, Southern Conn. State Univ.

SUGGESTED DONATION  
\$3.00

# Yale gallery to show anti-nuke trial movie

Associated Press

The 1983 Massachusetts trial of seven anti-nuclear activists is getting a replay of sorts with the public premiere of a documentary on the court proceedings at the Yale University Art Gallery tonight.

The videotape, called "The Trial of the AVCO Plaintiffs," was made as the seven tried to convince a Lowell, Mass., jury that they had just cause for damaging materials used for making nuclear missile components in an Avco Systems Division plant.

The two-week trial has been condensed into a 75-minute documentary. The videotape is being publicized by its makers as unique.

During the trial, the seven were allowed to present evidence about the dangers of nuclear war, and brought in several well-known figures to testify against the weaponry. Filming was allowed because of new regulations that permitted cameras in the courtroom.

The defendants, who included a high school teacher and a nurse, condoned the filming, done by a New York media company called Global Village, said John Reilly, executive director of the company.

The premiere, to which there is a suggested admission charge of \$3, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the art gallery's lecture hall. Former U.S. Attorney Ramsey Clark,

who has become involved in the defense of anti-nuclear protesters, will speak afterward.

"What they tried to establish was there is an imminent threat of nuclear war and that, indeed, the systems that were being built by Avco, the MX Missile system, was adding to the threat, and that by even momentarily destroying some of these missiles, they were in effect, preventing a possible nuclear war," Reilly said from his New York office in a telephone interview on Friday.

The seven hammered on computer equipment and poured blood on blueprints at the Avco plant in Wilmington, Mass., on July 14, 1983. They were convicted of destruction of property and trespassing, and were given prison terms of up to 3½ months. Their appeal is pending.

At least five of the defendants and their lawyers also will be at the premiere.

Reilly said his company is asking the national public television network to consider broadcasting the documentary. The network has broadcast five of Global Village's works, he said.

"We believe that the documentary is very important for many people to see," he said.

Reilly said law schools and peace groups may also be interested in the videotape.

## Yale to host 2 forums on media Saturday

The public is invited to two panel discussions on the American media Saturday at Yale Law School, 127 Wall St.

A discussion will be held at 10:15 a.m. in the law school auditorium on the recent libel trials brought by Ariel Sharon and General William C. Westmoreland.

Law School Professor Alexander M. Bickel will serve as chairman of the debate. Panelists are Renata Adler, a writer and author of "Reckless Disregard"; Pierre N. Leval, the U.S. District Court judge who presided at the trial brought by Westmoreland; Abraham D. Sofaer, legal counsel for

the U.S. State Department who was the presiding judge in the Sharon trial; and Edward Jay Epstein, writer and author of "News from Nowhere: Television and the News."

A second discussion, titled "Reporting the Law: Competing Visions of the Public's Right to Know," will take place at 3:30 p.m. in Room 127 of the Law School. The chairman of the panel will be Yale Law School Associate Professor Drew S. Days III.

The panel discussions were organized as part of Yale Law School Alumni Weekend. They are free and open to the public.

JULIE GUSTAFSON  
DIRECTOR

GLOBAL  
VILLAGE

JOHN REILLY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR