

Duncan Campbell reports that the cancellation of Cruise missiles is on the cards

## **Cruise will be scrapped if Europe acts alone**

THE DECISION by NATO to modernise its nuclear forces with cruise and Pershing missiles is already a 'hostage' which will not survive if the belligerence of the Reagan government continues. This analysis of the nuclear arms race was presented last week at a conference on Nuclear War in Europe at Groningen in the Netherlands, organised by the Washington Centre for Defence Information and the Polemological (peace research) Institute of the Groningen State University. The speaker was Simon Lunn, a senior

official of the North Atlantic Assembly and the author of a recent extensive report on NATO's modernisation programme, prepared for the US senate.

The entire idea of modernising NATO's long range nuclear forces had, he explained, arisen from circumstances which were no longer valid. While the United States and the Soviet Union were still negotiating SALT II, it was possible to envisage a rough parity of the superpowers' strategic forces. Some Europeans — particularly Chancellor Schmidt — felt that this