ROCKETS G.B. 2606 Tues 23.12.58.

A 100 tons of the most complex mechanism ever devised by man, stands ready for launching at Cape Canaveral. 85 feet long, Its name is Atlas And its Americas biggest & best intercontinental missile [redacted]nt.....

The top section was destined to become the biggest earth sattelite yet sent up. Circling the equator every 100 minutes the 4 ton giant carries a tape recorder to receive and relay messages from Earth. For the first time a human voice, the voice of President Eisenhower, has been heard from space. This time the Americans have sent up a talking moon.....

Meanwhile on the other side of the Continent in California, the United States Air Force uncoveres its first strategic missile base at Vandenburg. This is no experimental station but America's first line of defence, ready at 11 minutes notice to send a Thor Intermediate Range Missile at ten thousand miles an hour on its journey of destruction.....

Everything's done by push-button -m even the fuelling of the rockets. It's possible that this new base may be the site used to send the first man into outer space. But right now it stands ready to defend America and the Free World.....

Rocket bases in Britain aren't so popular with some people. More than a 100 members of the Direct Action Campaign Against Nuclear Warfare marched to the R.A.F rocket base at Swaffham, Norfolk... 200 yards inside, they sat down in protest, blocking the road and preventing lorries from entering.....

Police lifted them bodily and carried them out. .....

36 were arrested and charged with obstructing the police, among them the Rev. Michael Scott who had flown from Accra in Ghana to take part in the demonstration.....