

PRESS RELEASE

March 27, 1998

For Immediate Release

Contact: Cathie Sullivan or Greg Mello 982-7747

**After Lawsuit Is Filed, Los Alamos Finally
Acknowledges First Amendment Rights of Leafletters;
Citizens' Group Returns to Los Alamos "Science" Museum**

SANTA FE--Today, leafletters finally returned to the Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos, where they will hand out their leaflets to Museum visitors. Almost a year ago, many of the same people were arrested by Museum Director John Rhoades for the same activities. Nine people spent almost six months in legal limbo, awaiting trial for "trespassing," which carried a penalty of up to a year in jail, plus fines of \$1,000 each. Charges were eventually dropped by the Lab and District Attorney Henry Gonzales just days before trial. Attorney John Boyd and the Freedman, Boyd, Daniels firm of Albuquerque represented the nine defendants.

The Study Group and the nine former defendants subsequently filed a lawsuit against the University of California, Rhoades, asking for a court order forcing LANL to allow leafleting, as well for repayment of legal defense costs and monetary damages. That lawsuit is now pending in federal district court in Albuquerque.

On February 25, LANL counsel Paul Bardacke wrote Boyd conceding the right to leaflet at the Museum.

The Study Group began leafleting when its "alternative perspectives" exhibit was gradually eased out of the Museum by a series of steps that concluded with a proposed "lottery," which was to decide how to divide a dwindling official allotment of space between the Study Group and a pro-laboratory organization.

"It's great to be back," said Study Group Director Greg Mello. The Bradbury Museum should not be allowed to propagandize visitors and new Lab employees without rebuttal. It is shameful that hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars are being spent at this corporate "museum" to advertise a facility that manufactures weapons of mass destruction. Is this "science," or just self-promotion?"

LATER TODAY--

Dr. Zia Mian, Princeton physicist and disarmament and nonproliferation expert, will speak at Guadalupe Parish Hall, 441 Agua Fria St., at 7:00 pm. A leading peace activist, his talk will be entitled "What Mad Pursuit: the Search for Nuclear Security Around the World."

ENDS