

## **Washington, D.C.**

**A seagoing gulag?** A human-rights organization this week accused the U.S. of operating a network of prison ships on which terrorism suspects are held incommunicado and abused. Reprieve, a British human-rights advocacy group, based its accusations on a report pieced together from Pentagon disclosures, testimony from released prisoners, and European governmental sources. The report alleges that as many as 17 Navy ships are being used as “floating prisons,” and that some prisoners have been handed over to Arab and African governments known to torture prisoners. “They choose ships to try to keep their misconduct as far as possible from the prying eyes of media and lawyers,” said Reprieve legal director Clive Stafford Smith. The U.S. Navy denied its ships were being used as “detention facilities,” but acknowledged that some prisoners were held on ships for “a few days” at the beginning of their confinement.