



## Duncan Campbell wins civil liberty award

THIS YEAR'S Cobden Award — for the piece of writing judged to have done most for civil liberty — has been given to Duncan Campbell of the *New Statesman*. Announcing the award, Malcolm Hurwitt, secretary of the Trust, cited Mr Campbell's 'major piece of investigative journalism' which exposed the government's telephone-tapping operations. He said: 'Duncan Campbell's revelations highlight the lack of accountability of the security services and the consequences of allowing these secret figures to define their own vision of what 'national security' consists of.' The award will be made at the Cobden Trust Human Rights Day Lecture on 10 December. It would be too mild to say that the rest of the *New Statesman* staff would like to congratulate Duncan Campbell on his Award: we've known for some time that we are working alongside one of the major talents in the business. It gets a little embarrassing to

write laudatory mini-profiles of one of our own, so perhaps we can cite the *Observer's* useful compact account on 12 October:

Together (Campbell's articles this year) . . . constitute the most important body of knowledge about the secret activities and plans of a government to have been published since the post-Watergate disclosures in America . . .

Campbell, 27, combines the good investigative reporter's fanatical appetite for detail with the scientific training that enables him to recognise the significance of what he discovers.

After attending Dundee High School and Brasenose College, Oxford, where he got a first in physics, he began contributing stories about electronics to specialist journals.

In February 1977 he was arrested with another journalist, Crispin Aubrey, after interviewing a former Signals Corps intelligence analyst, and charged under Section 1 of the Official Secrets Act. The charges under this section were later dropped, and he was found guilty of lesser offences under Section 2. (He was given a discharge on these matters, which became absolute this year.)

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