

FILE UNDER CIVIL DEFENCE
from [unclear]



Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

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To all Regional/Area Secretaries

Fred Barker
Nuclear Free Zone
Officer

19th September 1984

Dear Friend,

We have just heard that a national UKWMO exercise will take place on Sunday, October 28th. The exercise will run from 9.00 am to 5 pm. This mailing provides information to enable CND groups to make a response to the exercise. You will find enclosed:

1. A briefing paper which explains the function of the UKWMO, how to identify ROC posts, and the nature of UKWMO exercises. It also suggests some ideas for action.
2. A list of ROC posts in your area. The posts currently in use are highlighted. The ordnance survey map grid reference for each post is underlined. You will need a 1:25000 scale to locate the ROC posts.

Please pass copies of this mailing to those people in your area/region with a particular interest in civil defence, or who might organise some form of local response to the exercise. (The journey to Barrow on October 27th provides an ideal opportunity to publicise any activity that might be organised!).

It would also be useful if you could let us know of any activities which are planned in your area. This will enable us to release a press statement detailing response to the UKWMO exercise.

In peace,

Fred Barker

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Sy - the ^{fully} list will be held in office but we will also be sending out local details

Controls. According to a UKWMO publicity pamphlet, each Group Control has been purpose built to withstand a certain amount of blast and give protection against fall-out. Each has its own stand-by services as well as emergency food and water supply.

- b) ROC Posts: The appearance of ROC Posts varies. Some look like small bunkers (4'x4'x4') and are enclosed by short fencing. With others, the only sign of anything unusual above ground are two objects - one resembling a blue plastic dome and the other a white dustbin. (These are devices for measuring radiation levels and charting bomb blasts). Some of the posts have underground concrete chambers, up to 20' below ground, which are reached by a ladder running down a concrete shaft.

3. UKWMO Exercises

The UKWMO runs exercises several times a year. During the exercises ROC posts and Group Controls are staffed. The aim of the exercises is to test out the communications system between the ROC posts and Group Controls and the procedures for monitoring nuclear blasts and fall-out. ROC members are thus given the opportunity to practice for the 'real thing'.

During the exercises a typical Group Control would be staffed by around 50 people, including about 40 ROC members, scientific advisers, representatives from the Department of the Environment and British Telecom.

In the UKWMO exercise in May 1984, approximately 75% of the country's 870 ROC posts were staffed.

County wartime HQs could be involved in UKWMO exercises. Although there are no plans for their participation, enthusiastic Emergency Planning Departments can set up their own exercises and ask the UKWMO to transmit data to County wartime HQs during the national UKWMO exercise.

4. Ideas for Action

a) Identify Group Control and ROC posts in your area - Regional CND secretaries have ordinance survey grid references for the locations of the ROC posts.

b) Consider some form of activity at the Group Controls or ROC posts. This could range from leafleting of passers-by, symbolic actions near the bunkers, or actual occupations of the bunker sites. During previous exercises some CND groups have sat on top of ROC bunkers dressed as bomb victims with 'blood stained' bandages.

(The Journey to Barrow is an excellent opportunity to publicise activity)
c) Civil defence disclosures are newsworthy and evoke responses in newspapers, radio and TV. Make sure to issue a press release about your activity with a brief explanation of what a UKWMO exercise entails.

d) If you live in a Nuclear Free Zone, contact sympathetic councillors and ask them to find out if any council emergency planning staff are involved in the exercise. There is no legal

exposure Civil Defence leaflets for street campaigning

obligation on councils to participate in UKWMO exercises, so the council can instruct emergency planning staff not to take part.

IMPORTANT - Please let our Press Officer by telephone know of any activity which you have organised so that we can issue a Press Statement for Scotland

SECTOR HEADQUARTERS & GROUPS

Metropolitan sector:
HQ Horsham, Sussex

- 1 Maidstone
- 2 Horsham
- 3 Oxford (also peacetime HQ of UKWMO)
- 4 Colchester
- 14 Winchester

Midlands sector:
HQ Fiskerton, Lincoln

- 6 Norwich (Old Catton)
- 7 Bedford
- 8 Coventry (Lawford Heath)
- 15 Lincoln (Fiskerton)
- 20 York (Acomb)

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Southern sector:
HQ Lansdown, Bath

- 9 Yeovil
- 10 Exeter (Poltimore Park)
- 12 Bristol (Lansdown)
- 13 Carmarthen

Western Sector:
HQ Preston (Longley Lane, Gossnaragh)
(Also wartime national HQ for UKWMO and presumed alternative national warning centre)

- 16 Shrewsbury
- 17 Wrexham (Borras)
- 21 Preston (Longley Lane)
- 22 Carlisle (RAF Carlisle)
- 31 Belfast (Lisburn)

Caledonian sector:
HQ Dundee

- 24 Edinburgh (Turnhouse)
- 25 Ayr
- 28 Dundee (Craigiebarns)
- 29 Aberdeen (Northfield)
- 30 Inverness (Raigmore)

A list of ROC Posts in your area is attached. You will need an Ordnance Survey Map of your area (Scale 1:25000) to locate the ROC Posts.