

CIVIL DEFENCE AND NUCLEAR FREE ZONES

Civil defence policy, it is said by the British Government, is designed to protect the people of Britain from the worst ravages of a Nuclear Attack. In fact the civil defence policy provides no actual protection for the population but is simply a set of instructions to keep the civilian population under control. Should a nuclear bomb drop no shelter is to be provided and no extra hospitals are to be built. Doctors are advised to make final decisions about the victims that they examine - only patients that are expected to live for some time are to be treated; everyone else should be left to die.

New regulations are being implemented which will force Local Authorities to spend valuable resources on the establishment and maintenance of various civil defence procedures. Emergency control centres are to be equipped and manned - not for the mass of the population but to direct the policing of a post - attack society. Local Authority employees will be obliged to participate in Civil Defence exercises - school cooks cooking over wood fires, gardeners digging mass graves, and water-workers searching for unpolluted water supplies. All this is designed to create an atmosphere which will make nuclear war acceptable and make survival and even victory seem possible.

Since Civil Defence first appeared as a serious proposition with the publishing of the Government pamphlet "Protect and Survive" great numbers of people have seen the folly in such a policy. Many District and Regional Councils remain unimpressed and some of them have gone further and declared themselves "Nuclear Free Zones", rejecting (where possible) Nuclear Weapons and taking a very active stand against proposed Civil Defence Exercises.

In 1982 the Government's nationwide Civil Defence exercise, Hard Rock, had to be cancelled because over 100 Local Authorities refused to participate. How could they? They were given no information as to the extent of the attack, what services would be affected, how many casualties they would be expected to copy with, and how many of their communication links would still be in operation. These vital facts were no available and without them practical civil defence exercises are impossible. But if these facts were available publicly then the whole concept of Civil Defence would be exposed to be the con that it actually is.