

# Tasty snacks for nuclear death day

26/09/86

**A GROTESQUE stock-pile of food supplies for "surviving" nuclear war — featuring the drink "Rise and Shine" — was put on show in Edinburgh yesterday.**

**By MARTIN GOSTWICK**

The stock-pile was a tiny portion of thousands of emergency ration boxes which British Telecom is believed to be storing at major telephone exchanges in preparation for nuclear war.

It was smuggled out of one exchange by a disgusted British Telecom employee, who handed it over anonymously to the Scottish National Party, a press conference at the SNP's headquarters heard.

SNP vice-president and veteran CND activist, Isobel Lindsay announced: "The boxes we have received are being forwarded to a Lothian old people's home."

Executive member, Kenny McAskill explained: "We are more concerned with helping the living than preparing for a scenario where we would all be better off dead."

## BULGING

Five different menus were on offer: A, B, C, D, E, offering between varieties of tinned up and fruit, main courses bulging calories like beef burgers and pastas.

A sick joke was the instant lemond drink "Rise and Shine"

which Ms. Lindsay supposed telephone engineers were to drink before emerging from their bunkers after a holocaust to repair telephone lines.

Ms. Lindsay also pointed to the tins of cling peaches, apricot halves and other fruit, bearing the brand name Gant, produce of South Africa.

Elaborate instructions for the use of food and disposal of waste, clearly indicating the supplies were reserved for war emergencies, were shown to the press.

Ms. Lindsay stated: "Our informant told us British Telecom has been carrying out this programme since 1979."

## PERPETUATING

"Clearly, British Telecom is perpetuating the government's myth of civil defence, in trying to dupe its own employees, and the public, into believing that some kind of normal life is possible after a nuclear exchange."

The SNP was demanding that British Telecom reveal whether it or the government, was paying for the supplies.

Ms. Lindsay said that if Scotland was an independent, non-nuclear, non-aligned country, the SNP would adopt civil defence on the Swedish or Swiss models.

However as things stood, Scotland would be subject to saturation bombing and total devastation.

A British Telecom spokesman said food stocks were held at telephone exchanges for use in the event of natural disasters, such as earthquake, fire and flood.



● ISOBEL LINDSAY: "British Telecom is trying to dupe its own employees."

He would not comment, however, on whether emergency rations were also stored as a contingency for nuclear war. This was a matter of "national

security," which the government should answer, he said.

A comment requested from the Home Office was not forthcoming last night.

# 'No victors in nuclear war'

27/09

THERE will be no victory parades after a nuclear war because there will be no victors, the Czechoslovak ambassador said on Thursday night.

He was speaking at a reception to launch a new book by Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press containing selected speeches and writings of Czechoslovakia's President Gustav Husak.

"Nuclear weapons had changed the whole context of peaceful co-existence and given

it a new meaning and urgency," he continued.

"The conditions for establishing a new system of international relations between states with different social systems based on real and lasting security for all and constructive co-operation were now maturing."

Mr. Maxwell spoke of the guilt which many in Britain felt over the Munich betrayal of Czechoslovakia.

While he would not agree with all that President Husak

had to say, he felt that understanding of his viewpoint was vital to anyone who wanted to understand Czechoslovakia and what it stood for in the world today.

Mr. Maxwell expressed a special welcome to Mr. Macek, head of the office of the general secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, and Mr. Salda, head of the office of the Czechoslovak President who had come to Britain on his invitation for the launching of the book.

MORNING

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