

ONE-MAN RULE OVER THOSE WHO SURVIVE

In the aftermath of a nuclear attack, the present system of control would break down.

Experience shows that looting and violence would probably be common.

The maintenance of public order would be the responsibility of Regional Commissioners of whom there would be one for Scotland based in Edinburgh.

His powers would be backed by surviving police and armed forces and a system of courts with emergency powers.

To quote a Home Office circular: "In conditions in which death, destruction and injury were commonplace, such penalties as probation, fines or sentences of imprisonment would no longer be effective. Such penalties as communal labour, restricted rations and exposure to public disapproval might be appropriate for all but the gravest offences but, in the case of flagrantly anti-social behaviour, there might be a need for harsher penalties than would be generally acceptable in peace-time... Regional Commissioners, acting through their commissioners of justice, would be empowered to impose such penalties as they thought fit in the light of conditions and circumstances at that time". (Home Office Circular ES3/1976, Briefing Material for Wartime Controllers).

Government circulars suggest that quick and final penalties may have to be applied to those who do not conform to the emergency regulations.

SURELY THEY MUST KNOW

QUOTE 1

"We have also decided that it is right for information about civil defence and the likely effects of a future war involving the United Kingdom to be made generally available in peacetime. The public has a right to knowledge of these matters. We have already published Protect and Survive and we will be examining ways of making more information available".

Rt. Honourable William Whitelaw PC MP, Home Secretary - February 2, 1982, House of Commons.

QUOTE 2

"In an all-out nuclear war, more destructive power than in all of World War II would be unleashed every second for the long afternoon it would take for all the bombs and missiles to fall. A World War every second - more people killed in the first few hours than (in) all the wars of history put together. The survivors, if any, would live in despair amid the poisoned ruins of a civilisation that had committed suicide ...".

President Jimmy Carter in his farewell address to the Nation, 14 January 1981.

QUOTE 3

"As the British Government's White Paper on Defence put it as long ago as 1957, there are no means of protecting the population against the consequences of nuclear attack. There are none today when the scale of attack that could be envisaged is at least a hundred times greater than it was twenty years ago".

Lord Zuckerman, formerly Chief Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence, in Nuclear Illusion and Reality, Collins 1982.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Q. Why did the Regional Council refuse to take part in the government's civil defence exercise called Hard Rock last autumn? Surely it is in everyone's interest that as much preparation as possible should be made to deal with an event like a nuclear attack?

A. Civil defence is largely aimed at preserving the machinery of government. Successive administrations have made it clear that there would be no attempt to try to provide protection for the general public (Defence White Paper 1957). If government was concerned to protect the public, it would be spending the thousands of millions of pounds needed to provide underground shelters for the people of Britain. Instead, spending for the whole of Scotland for 1983/84 is £2.3 million - equal to 42p per head of population.

Some countries, such as Sweden and Switzerland, do have a shelter programme for their people. But it is also significant that these countries do not have either nuclear weapons themselves or nuclear bases on their soil. The Regional Council considers that the presence of so many nuclear bases around the Clyde makes the West of Scotland a prime target for nuclear attack. That is why, in seeking to have the area of Strathclyde recognised as a nuclear-free zone, we demand their removal.

Q. It is clear that the West of Scotland is a prime target but surely the "balance of terror" means that any enemy would be deterred from creating such a holocaust - for themselves as well as for us?

A. That has been the view of successive governments in the past, as reference to almost any Defence White Paper will show, and may well have been true then. But the trouble is that with new technology, weapons can now be targeted with incredible precision - to within 30 yards in some cases - against other weapons rather than against cities. This makes the military believe now in the possibility of pre-emptive strikes. That is their jargon for wiping out your enemy's weapons before he can fire them. So the weapons become offensive - not defensive.

Secondly, there are now so many weapons - about 20 times more than needed to kill the whole world - owned by a growing number of diverse regimes that the danger of accidental war has greatly increased. That is why the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists in its regular issues has indicated that the world now stands nearer to a nuclear holocaust than ever before.

It was essentially those reasons which led so many people in Strathclyde over the past couple of years to demonstrate their concern and persuaded the Regional Council to commit itself to the campaign for the removal of nuclear bases.

Q. What has the Regional Council done to pursue this commitment?

A. It has:-

\* Lodged an objection to the development of the Trident base at Coulport (opposition to this latest addition to the nuclear armoury spreads right across the political spectrum). Apart from the military arguments, every fully armed submarine will cost 21,500 million - as much as the entire budget of Strathclyde Region servicing 2.5 million people.

\* Organised a public inquiry to explore the various planning and strategic arguments in relation to this proposal.

WHAT WE BELIEVE 3

- # Through various means such as this newspaper attempted to ensure wider understanding and debate of these crucial issues.
- # Refused to take part in the government's civil defence exercise planned for the autumn of 1982. This had to be postponed because half of Britain's local authorities refused to participate.

## ATTRIBUTIONS

The sources from which this publication has been produced are all publicly available. None is restricted or classified in any way although some may have been at an earlier date.

Those Scottish Home and Health Department circulars in the ES (Scot) i.e., Emergency Services (Scotland) series which are not now restricted or classified

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