

USEFUL QUOTATIONS ON CIVIL DEFENCE

" The survivors would envy the dead."

1st Congress of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

" The most serious danger...is that the desensitised populations of the major powers, fed statistics implying that there will be plenty of survivors and persuaded that "nukes" are merely an extension of conventional weaponry, will allow governments to consider nuclear war as a rational possibility."

"Comprehending the Bomb", Anthony Tucker, Guardian 25.4.80.

"On the basis of our study, we conclude that there can be no effective civil defence against nuclear war and recommend that whatever resources are used for the protection of the civilian population be devoted to the prevention of nuclear war."

"The role and effectiveness of civil defence in nuclear war"
Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons.

" 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 the attack that could be envisaged is at least a hundred times greater than it was twenty years ago."

"Nuclear Illusion and Reality" --Sir Solly Zuckerman, former Chief Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Defence and Prime Ministers.

" Statements appear that a nuclear war can be won, that a limited nuclear war can be waged, that humanity and the biosphere will persist even in conditions of total nuclear catastrophe. This is an illusion...which must be dispersed."

Dr E.I. Chazov, Director National Cardiology Research Centre, USSR.

" We conclude that there is only one worthwhile form of civil defence - positive action to reduce the risk of nuclear war. Present policies for the further deployment of increasingly sophisticated nuclear weapons only make war more likely. These policies must be reversed if the ultimate catastrophe is to be avoided."

"London After the Bomb" Greene, Rubin, Turok, Webber and Wilkinson of Scientists Against Nuclear Arms.

" All (Civil Defence) does is to give the illusion that you can have a nice, neat, humane, limited war. And that's the most dangerous delusion that Mankind's ever dreamed up...."

Admiral Gene Laroque, former Pentagon military planner.

"It is an illusion that civil defence could save significant numbers of lives or significantly decrease the effects of nuclear war."

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, March '81.

(continued)

"Shelters as far as ten kilometres from the centre of even a one megaton nuclear explosion would become ovens for their occupants."

"A nuclear war would result in human death, injury, and disease on a scale that has no precedent in human history, dwarfing all previous plagues and wars. There is no possible effective medical response after a nuclear attack..."

from Statement of Pugwash Medical Working Group, August 1980

"It is time to recognise that the concept of civil defence is moribund. We should now put it out of its misery quickly, bury the corpse and get on with the urgent job of protecting the people of this country from the consequences of nuclear war by preventing it."

Michael Pentz, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Open University and Chair of Scientists Against Nuclear Arms.

"...even if a quite extraordinary massive investment was now made in Civil Defence and this succeeded in dealing to some extent with the short term effects, it could just mean that more people would die in the appalling years that would follow."

"As Lambs to The Slaughter", Paul Rogers, Malcolm Dando, Peter van den Dungen. School of Peace Studies, Bradford.

"Home Office plans do not deal adequately with the likely results of a nuclear attack, it is inconceivable that any plans could hope to deal with such an event adequately. Any other conclusion would be to indulge in wishful thinking."

"Civil Defence in Britain" George Crossley, Bradford School of Peace Studies.

"It is not just the biggest con-trick of all time, it is the cruellest con-trick of all time - believing that there will be any survival and that there will be any people here... What we want to see is..energies being put into getting rid of the policy that means we have weapons in this country and get rid of the policies of war."

Ken Cameron, General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union to the 1981 FBU Conference.

"The more effective shelters are against short term effects (blast and fallout), the more survivors there will be competing for scarce resources of food, fuel and medical care, in a society lacking transport, pharmaceuticals and manufactured goods of every kind."

Technical Briefing for County Councils by Dr Barnett and Dr Kaplin (SANA)

"There are no defences against the lethal effects of nuclear weapons and there is no effective treatment for those who initially survived a nuclear attack. Under all conditions, medically, nuclear war would be an unparalleled strophe."

Statement of the Pugwash Medical Working Group

"Some of the information in this circular may offend individual beliefs. Recipients may wish to restrict its distribution to those who have a need to know."

Warning at the head of Home Office circular ES8/1976 on Environmental Health in War.

MORE USEFUL QUOTATIONS ON CIVIL DEFENCE

" It seems likely that any initial nuclear strike would be a massive one aimed at making the country attacked totally ineffective militarily, politically and industrially. In particular the means of nuclear retaliation would be primary targets.... The Home Defence assumption is that nuclear war poses the greatest threat."

Home Office Training Manual for Scientific Advisors

" A most valuable service which everyone could render would be control of flies by means such as...fly-sprays and vigorous swatting campaigns."

" (casualty) sorting (must) be repeated and continuous, it must be ruthless if it is to be effective; it would often be necessary to give priority to the less severely injured casualties and have regard to the nation's need in the phase of recovery."

DHSS Guidance Notes

"There would be no question of implementing emergency feeding arrangements during the pre-attack period for those who chose to ignore the government's advice to stay in their own homes."

Circular ES1/79

"Attempting to keep zombies separate from clear local residents"

Extract from Rochford HQ telex during Scrum Half exercise.

"In the unlikely event of war it will be necessary to rediscover a true sense of family and community discipline which over the years has markedly disintegrated."

East Anglia RHA war plan.

"It would be chaotic to have women and children running around a control room. These sound like harsh words...My family would have to take their chance along with the others...I would do my duty and go to my post, while saying my prayers for my family."

Gordon Moore, Chief Executive, Bradford Council.

"I'd hope to be up within three weeks to try to get some sort of organisation going, at least trying to get round educating people to get things like their rooms swept out."

Graham Bate - a nuclear shelter owner.

"If you go in with a power shovel or hand shovel and clean off the top inch of dirt, mound it off somewhere out of the way, you've gotten rid of the radiation in that area... If there are enough shovels to go round everybody's going to make it....recovery time could be two to four years."

Thomas K Jones - Deputy Under Secretary of US Defence

"There are hundreds of nuclear shelters all over the UK...being wasted Protect and Survive Monthly... will each month offer its readers a selection of wines for laying down - plus a few for drinking while you wait."

"Protect and Survive Monthly"

"A radiation check in Hiroshima in 1946 revealed that there was only slightly more radioactivity in the atom-bombed city than there was in London." !

"You Can Survive" - Essex County Council's pamphlet.

"The decisions which will need to be taken by controllers may well include how refugees from urban areas should be turned back from the rural areas and how much force should be used. Whether to feed all the surviving population or only those who have not been exposed to the fatal doses of radiation..."

Deputy Chief Executive, Manchester City.

"Refuse collection as we know it would cease"

North Yorks. Emergency Planning Officer

"Solely for the purposes of survival planning, it can be assumed that the population survival rate would range from 60% in the worst affected areas to 95% in the least damaged areas."

ES 3/73 issued by the Home Office.

"The combined effects of all the differences between (SANA's) own and the Home Office's computer model is for the former to predict roughly twice or even two and a half times the total number of casualties for an identical pattern and weight of attack...the Working Party believes ... that the projections from SANA give a more realistic estimate of the blast, heat and radiation effects."

BMA report on medical effects of nuclear war.

"We shall certainly not ignore the very real presentational - and substantial - advantages of achieving as much common approach as we can between peacetime emergencies and civil defence planning."

J.A. Howard- Assistant Secretary, Home Office

"In some countries, an attempt has been made to enhance the credibility of civil defence by making it responsible for a whole range of extraneous activities euphemistically called peacetime emergencies or disasters."

Former Director-General of the Canadian Emergency Measures Office

"The trouble started when Miss Fritch said that no provision had been made for chemical toilets. She reckoned that we would need about 8,000 chemical toilets to carry on in the normal way. This produced some jeering from the defeatist element on the committee, one of whom asked what we would do when 100,000 contaminated Londoners poured into our village. I said that this figure was most unreliable considering PFR-probable fatality rate - but if they came in they would be shot."

Bob Tufton after a local Nuclear Home Defence meeting.

"The NHS could not deal with the casualties that might be expected following the detonation of a single one megaton weapon over the UK."

BMA report on medical effects of nuclear war.