

(DRAFT TEXT FOR A LEAFLET)

## "MILLIONS WOULD SURVIVE" - SO THEY SAY - BUT IS IT TRUE ?

The Government is spending £20,000,000,000 on the Trident nuclear missile submarines and the Tornado nuclear bombers. It says we need them to "strengthen our nuclear deterrent". But it is also forcing local authorities to carry out exercises for nuclear war because it says that this will "make our deterrent more credible".

The Government tries to justify its 'civil defence' measures by claiming that "there will be millions of survivors after a nuclear war".

CND has been saying for a long time that this is nonsense.

- \* After a moderate, but realistic nuclear attack on Britain, aimed mainly at military and strategic targets and not at the population as such, scientists have shown that there would be at least 39 million people killed and 4 million severely injured. So there might be 'millions of survivors' - perhaps even 10 or 12 million.
- \* For how long would these 'survivors' last ? Would they not, before they too died, 'envy the dead' ? What would life be like in a world after nuclear war ? Would life be possible at all ?

A Conference of scientists in Washington last November has now given us a clear and chilling answer to these questions:

*YOUR CHANCES OF SURVIVING AFTER A NUCLEAR WAR ARE FAR LOWER THAN HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN EXPECTED. IF YOU WERE NOT KILLED QUICKLY BY BLAST OR BURNS OR RADIATION, YOU WOULD PROBABLY STARVE OR FREEZE TO DEATH:*

## NUCLEAR WAR would be followed by NUCLEAR WINTER

*The survivors would face extreme cold, water shortages, lack of food and fuel, exposure to damaging radiations, diseases and severe psychological stress - ALL THIS IN TWILIGHT OR DARKNESS.*

WHAT WOULD CAUSE THIS CATASTROPHE ?    WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT IT ?

please turn over.....

# THE WORLD AFTER NUCLEAR WAR

Here are some of the findings reported at the Washington Conference:

- \* An unbroken pall of darkness would cover the northern hemisphere (and might rapidly spread into the southern hemisphere)

Within a week of the explosions, sunlight reaching ground level would be so weak as to stop or severely limit all plant growth.

- \* There would be a harsh nuclear winter with several months of subfreezing land temperatures that would greatly reduce the chances of human survival.

A war in the spring or summer would damage or kill most crops and farm animals in the northern hemisphere and would destroy most forests. Many of the animals would die of thirst because their drinking water would be frozen. Available food supplies would rapidly run out and most human survivors would die of starvation.

- \* There would be much more radioactive fallout than previously predicted.

In addition to the immediate and long-term fallout from the nuclear explosions there would be an 'intermediate fallout', bounced back to Earth by the dust and smoke in the atmosphere. People exposed to it would receive radiation doses equivalent to a thousand medical X-rays. This would increase the chances of infectious diseases, cancer and genetic effects.

- \* Fires would be a major problem.

Uncontrolled fires would sweep over wide areas, and lead to disastrous flooding and erosion. Urban fires would produce toxic fumes from the burning of synthetic materials.

- \* Tropical forests would disappear.

Tropical plants cannot withstand even short periods of cold. Their destruction would in turn lead to the extinction of most animal and plant life forms.

- \* Even a relatively small nuclear exchange could trigger these severe after-effects.

The scientists' study showed that the explosion of only 100 Megatons of nuclear bombs on cities would result in cold and dark almost as severe as after an 'all-out' war in which fifty times as many bombs were exploded.

## THESE SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS DEMONSTRATE THE ULTIMATE ABSURDITY OF 'CIVIL DEFENCE'

There may indeed be a few million 'survivors' in Britain after a nuclear war - but not for long. Sooner or later, no one - not even the top military and political leaders in their deep bunkers - will escape the consequences of nuclear war.

THE BEST CONTRIBUTION THAT ANYONE CAN MAKE TOWARDS PREVENTING MILLIONS OF DEATHS IN BRITAIN AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IS TO JOIN THE PEACE MOVEMENT AND WORK FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND PEACE.

But isn't the Government working for peace ?

Of course they say they are, but what are they doing ? Accepting American Cruise missiles, planning to buy the American-built Trident submarine missiles, refusing even to discuss reductions in our nuclear weapons, opposing the idea of a 'freeze' on the development of new nuclear weapons - an idea that has the support of four out of five American people, and of the Soviet Union.

CRUISE AND TRIDENT WILL MAKE BRITAIN LESS SAFE, NOT MORE. UNLESS THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE IS STOPPED AND REVERSED, THERE WILL BE A NUCLEAR WAR, FOLLOWED BY A NUCLEAR WINTER.

SAY NO to nuclear suicide ! ACT NOW ! JOIN CND ! JOIN YOUR LOCAL PEACE GROUP !