Have you ever wished you were better informed?

This leaflet has been produced to answer some of the questions which are most commonly asked, about the threat of nuclear war.

QUESTION. Is nuclear war now more likely, or probable?

Yes the warnings are now being voiced by statesmen, military men and prominent public figures. The largest growth industry in this country at the moment is in nuclear shelter building (for those who can afford a typical £14,000 per shelter) and the Government is itself publishing information on nuclear shelters as well as the pathetic pamphlet "Protect and Survive". Clearly the Government believes nuclear war is more likely!

Ex-President Carter's farewell speech to the American people, which was largely ignored in this country, expressed extreme concern at the escalation of the nuclear arms race. He stated:

"As the arsenals of the super-powers grown in size and sophistication, it may only be a matter of time before madness, greed or miscalcuation lets loose this terrible force."

QUESTION. Nuclear weapons have been a deterrent for 30 years, what has changed?

The whole argument of the deterrent effect of nuclear weapons is that they will save the world by threatening to destroy it. In other words, because each side knows that it will be annihilated by the other in a nuclear war neither will risk such a conflict. This idea was known as 'M.A.D.', which stands for Mutually Assured Destruction. But the policy of M.A.D. is no longer the policy at the Pentagon.

QUESTION. Our Government hasn't done anything to endorse this policy, has it?

Yes it has. It has agreed to allow 160 nuclear armed Cruise Missiles under American control to be deployed on mobile launchers in this country. It also plans to replace our Polaris submarines with Trident submarines at a cost of over £6000,000,000. Both weapon systems are of the highly accurate variety required to fight the so-called limited nuclear war envisaged by the Americans.

QUESTION. Yes, but our Government wouldn't deliberately involve us in a nuclear was would it?

The decision to go to war, in particular the decision for nuclear war in which there is little time to decide, is not made by the Government as a whole, but by leaders - President Nixon in the 60's said *"I can walk into my office, pick up the telephone and in half an hour 70 million people will be dead."* Are we safe while a man like Nixon could make such a decision?

The prospect, however, of nuclear war by accident is now becoming increasingly more likely. American SALT II Chief Negotiator, Paul Warnke, says *". . . I think there's no question about it, as you get the forces on more and more of a hairtrigger, what you've done is to increase the risk that at a time of severe international crisis, one or the other will strike first because they won't have a chance to respond. Now that's the way in which a nuclear war would start, not by rational calculation, but out of panic. Out of the fear that the other side was going to get you unless you got him first."*

QUESTION. Wouldn't it be better to have our own independent nuclear force, not disarmament?

For Britain, an independent nuclear force can only be a dangerous bluff. If we use it, the result would be suicide, yet if we do not use it, there is no point having it. The cost of the Trident submarines to maintain this bluff would be over £6000 million - money we cannot afford. We would be safer and better off without nuclear weapons.

QUESTION. What is to stop nuclear weapons being used against us even if we haven't got our own?

Without nuclear bases, there would be no point in attacking us with nuclear weapons - a radio active wasteland would not be of any use to an enemy. *With* nuclear bases, we are a prime target. However we will not be completely safe until we have rid the world of all nuclear weapons.

QUESTION. Shouldn't any move for nuclear disarmament come for the Soviet Union first? After all hasn't the USSR got much stronger nuclear forces?

No, this is a false impression given by military men for their own ends. The figures given are often very misleading. For example, the U.S. has 40 nuclear submarines and the soviet Union 80, but the Soviet Union only manages to keep 10 at sea at any one time, compared to the United States' 20. Thus what appears at first to be approximately 2 to 1 superiority to the Soviet Union is in fact the other way around.

The figures are also misleading if missiles are compared one to one. The U.S. has developed missiles which can carry up to 14 individual warheads and which after launch can be guided independently to 14 different targets hundreds of miles apart. If we count the number of stategic targets the U.S. can hit with nuclear bombs compared with the Soviet Union, *on submarines alone* in 1979, the figures were U.S. 6,600, U.S.S.R. 1,640. British and French weapons are in addition to these figures.

QUESTION. Well, even if the Russians aren't stronger on nuclear weapons aren't they much stronger in conventional forces? Would we be able to hold them back for long without nuclear weapons?

No, soviet Forces aren't stronger and yes we would be able to hold them back. The International Institute of Strategic Studies sums up in "The Military Balance 1980/81" in the following way: *". . . the overall balance is still such as to make military aggression appear unattractive. N.A.T.O. defences are of such a size and quality that any attempt to breach them would require a major attack. The consequences for an attacker would be incalculable."*

QUESTION. If nuclear war occurred what warning would we receive?

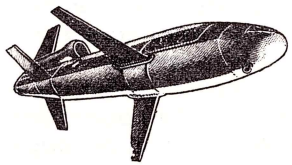
The maximum warning that could be given is 4 minutes. It is however freely admitted that this warning would not be given in the event of an attack to prevent panic.

QUESTION. If there is a nuclear war it will be over very quickly, so we won't suffer will we?

This is a terrible misconception. The one tiny (by today's standards) Hiroshima bomb killed 70,000 people instantly, but a further 70,000 people died after terrible suffering over the next 5 months. The final death toll was in excess of 200,000. *Some victims are alive but still suffering to this day. About 1000 people still die each year from its effects.*

QUESTION. What Civil Defence could we expect after the attack?

Practically none. The Authorities warn that we can expect no help at all for at least 14 days from the time of attack. During this period radiation levels would be too high to allow even short periods of exposure. Any casualties no matter how badly wounded, would be left to die. With hospitals destroyed and many medical staff dead, medical aid in many areas would not be available for a long time afterwards. Surviving police and army units would be mainly concerned with the mass burial of millions of putrifying corpses and the maintenance of law and order.



QUESTION. What casualties could be expected?

The expected strength of a nuclear attack on the country is 200 megatons. THIS IS THE EQUIVALENT of 13,000 HIROSHIMA TYPE BOMBS! The Government believes, in the best possible case, half the population would perish. However, more realistic estimates are that at least 45 million people would die.

QUESTION. How quickly could life return to normal?

NEVER. The power released on this comparatively small country by the expected attack of 200 megatons would be hundreds of times the total explosive power released in the whole of the Second World War. Deadly radioactive fallout would remain *for hundreds of years.*

Even survivors in the country areas will emerge from their shelters to a dead world. The rivers will be contaminated from radioactive fallout, fields and forests destroyed and animals and birds which sheltered in them dead and diseased. Food and water supplies will be polluted, essential services like sanitation non-existent, and radiation sickness and the spread of epidemics unavoidable.

In his speech last year President Carter warning the world of the perilous course the nuclear arms race was embarked upon, summed up the aftermath in the following way, *"The survivors, if any, would live in despair amid the poisoned ruins of a civilisation that had committed suicide."*

QUESTION. Is the CND controlled by a group of extreme left wingers?

Definitely not. Ordinary people are joining C.N.D. in their thousands. They have come from all walks of life and political groups. Not only people who have had previous sympathy with the cause, but people who have suddenly realised that the situation has now changed and that this country and its people are facing daily, hourly, annihilation. *They are realising that if this continues, there will be little point in trying to make plans for the future.*

Finally, Earl Mountbatten, who can hardly be called a left winger, said in a major speech in Strasbourg in 1979, against nuclear weapons, *" . . . as a military man who has given half a century of active service I say in all sincerity that the nuclear arms race has no military purpose. Wars cannot be fought with nuclear weapons. Their existence only adds to our perils because of the illusions which they have generated.*

The world now stands on the brink of the final abyss. Let us all resolve to take all possible practical steps to ensure that we do not, through our own folly, go over the edge."

QUESTION. What can we do about it.

* Talk to you friends - get their support for nuclear disarmament.
* Wear the CND badge.
* Write to you MP and councillors, asking what are they doing about it.
* If you are a member of any organization - political party, trade union, church, club or anything else - ask them to discuss and support disarmament. CND will be pleased to provide speakers.
* Support any local or national disarmament events you can.
* Join the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and get your organization to affiliate. Details of local and national membership below.

. . . . . .

Iwant to join Leeds Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. [ ]

I would like more information about Leeds CND. [ ]

please tick.

Please send me a membership card and details of meetings. (Subscription rates: £1 per year.) Organisations £5 affiliation fee.

Ienclose my subscription of. . . . . .

NAME. . . . . .

ADDRESS. . . . . .

. . . . . .

Please tear off and return to: The Secretary,
Leeds CND,
107, Harehills Avenue,
Leeds, 8.