

# Physicist plans 'war games' conference, accidental colony

Daily Telegraph Reporter

THE key to avoiding nuclear conflict lay in understanding human psychology, rather than in conventional political analysis, Dr Ken Bullough, a physicist from Sheffield University, told a Manchester conference on accidental nuclear war on Saturday.

Dr Bullough, who gave up a Readership at the University in order to spend more time on the study of nuclear weapons, was one of about 60 academics from British universities who attended the event, the first of its kind in the country.

Dr Bullough, who admitted his idea was "radical," proposed setting up two isolated colonies of up to 20,000 top military personnel and their families in the United States and the Soviet Union, who would play war games in a serious attempt to understand the psychological reasons behind the arms race.

"We are not dealing with an ordinary conflict, so we have to resort to extraordinary measures," he said. "We have no right to submit our planet to these dangers, nor do we have the right to leave this legacy of fear to our children."

"My aim is to allow problem solving to take precedence over the political role-playing which

dominates at present."

Eventually, said Dr Bullough, each colony would be able to assess the consequences of aggression which would lead inevitably to a reduction in nuclear arms on both sides.

Once that was achieved, the opposing powers could adopt a defensive military strategy using conventional, rather than nuclear weapons.

"We need to create an environment where a close working relationship would be established between opposing military high commands," he said. "This would limit misunderstanding and the creation of false images of the adversary, and hopefully lead to co-operation between super powers."

His idea, which was warmly received by the delegates, had already been discussed by the Ministry of Defence research establishment in West Byfleet, he claimed. But it would be expensive and would take several years to implement.

Other topics discussed at the conference, which was organised by the Richardson Institute for Conflict and Peace Research, based at Lancaster University, included setting up a joint East-West crisis control centre. Soviet and American staff would study the effects of nuclear war and plan for any future crisis.