

8.8.84

Falling out

WITH reference to local councils of war by Rosemary Burton (July 25). I am a member of the Surrey Nuclear Defence Force but so far we have not received any instructions in "defence."

There is no defence against nuclear war but there will be pockets of people unlucky enough to survive into what will be a very harsh, cold and derelict world. The NCD should be renamed Nuclear Survival Force because that will be the real problem for a formerly civilised population faced with no food or medication, no drinking water from taps, no electricity or gas and no transport to bring them food or medication, quite apart from learning to cope with radiation.

The NCD will take over all food and medical supplies in local shops (and must be prepared to shoot looters on sight).

No country surviving nuclear war will be worth taking over by a potential enemy but we may have to defend ourselves against the enemy within who will seek to deprive us of the few remaining luxuries like food we will have collected to share as equally as possible amongst our local community.

We may also have to decide which of the survivors are worth feeding — if they are already dying from radiation sickness, the scarce food and medical supplies may be better distributed amongst more active survivors who have a real chance of recreating some form of primitive existence.

There are definite techniques of survival to be learned and these should be taught as compulsory subjects in schools. The moral questions for nuclear survivors will, however, be immense and perhaps we should also be issued with suicide pills to ease the problems there and then.

T. Wignall,
Trey.

S.T. 26/8/84

Aspirins against A-bombs

by Graham Smith

WEST country health planners, who believe that their region has the best chance in Britain of surviving a nuclear war, are choosing 300 sites to be first-aid posts and casualty stations. They intend to stockpile more than £3m worth of emergency medical supplies and drugs — including large quantities of aspirin.

The South-West Health Authority, undeterred by its plans being dismissed by the British Medical Association as a waste of time and money, claims to be the most advanced in the country with its preparations for a holocaust. Its emergency planning unit has already spent £60,000 of Department of Health funds and it is now negotiating for money for its drugs stockpile.

The authority envisages a first-aid post for every 10,000 people, stocking drugs and medical supplies worth £1 a head. Each post would have 20,000 analgesic tablets including aspirin and paracetamol — or two headache tablets each if everyone survived the Big Bang. There would be painkilling, antibiotic and anti-emetic doses, antiseptics, water sterilisation tablets, antacid tablets and powders, intravenous fluids and assorted bandages and cotton wool.

A 15-page document detailing these plans has been sent by the authority. It says that the posts would seek to boost survivors' morale and provide "tender loving care". Its enthusiasm for war planning has been encouraged by a Newcastle University computer study two weeks ago which considered that the region had the best chance of survival in a nuclear attack on Britain.

John Cooper, head of the planning unit, last week started choosing suitable sites in the region — which includes Cornwall, Devon and large areas of Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset.

Scotland's plans for an A-war

SCOTLAND'S councils were yesterday asked to think about the unthinkable... a nuclear holocaust.

It came in a new Civil Defence "rule book" from Scottish Secretary George Younger.

The Scottish Office stress that at the moment the risk of war in Europe is "very low." Any build-up of tension could last weeks or months.

But council plans should be ready for operation within seven days.

Scotland would be split into two areas controlled by a Government Minister. But councils

would be responsible for emergency services, training of staff, communications, and public shelters.

The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities will send copies of the circulars to every council chief. And they will meet in Edinburgh on September 21 to consider them.

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