

# US getting Britain ready for Day After

Morning Star Reporter

MILITARY planners are preparing a network of war hospitals throughout Britain. The 500-bed hospitals will be sited at 15 sites and will be used exclusively by US military personnel in the event of a war. These revelations are contained in a new book by journalist Duncan Campbell to be published next week. The book,

The Unsinkable Aircraft Carrier, exposes the extent of US military power in Britain.

US military hospitals were installed at Little Rissington and Locking last year. US airforce hospitals at Upwood, Bicester and Nocton Hall and US army hospitals at Colerne, Cosford, Bulford and Tidworth are to be installed this year.

The remaining airforce hospitals at Bordon, Feltwell,

Kemble, Newton and Waterbeach will be completed at a later date.

Mr. Campbell said the Ministry of Defence claimed it had no knowledge of any US plan to build such a network of hospitals.

The hospital at Locking was built by the US navy at a cost of more than £30 million.

Mr. Campbell documents more than 160 US military bases in Britain, including 30 military housing sites.

He also reveals how US nuclear submarines are refitted at Scotland's Holy Loch base while nuclear missiles are still on board.

Such a situation would be banned in the US, where stringent safety requirements insist that such weapons should first be unloaded.

Mr. Campbell exposes how parts of nearby Dunoon and settlements around Holy Loch are in danger from accidents at the base. In the US, nuclear submarine bases are not permitted near such towns because of the dangers.

## Big 'bug' for base

By BARBARA MacDERMOTT

NORTH HILL United States National Security base in Yorkshire is "bugging" Yorkshire Humberside Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament so they decided to get their own back.

On Sunday at 2pm several hundred "phonetappers" will converge on the base, equipped with cardboard telephones and lengths of string to attach them to the perimeter fence.

North Hill is said to be the

biggest telephone and telex-tapping operation in the world. Its operations are kept secret from the US Congress and the base is totally unaccountable to the British government.

It also appears to be the terminal of the Pentagon's defence satellite communications system and is unquestionably a nuclear target.

The symbolic "listening-in" is part of several protests which will take place in the Yorkshire area as part of the weekend of action organised by CND.

By MARTIN DOWLE, Our Chief Political Correspondent.

The Ministry of Defence admitted yesterday that there were "weaknesses" in the security of Britain's defence installations, and said anti-nuclear protesters' incursions onto sensitive bases were "unacceptably frequent."

But the report submitted to the Commons by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, says an absolute assurance that all such entry into nuclear bases could be prevented could only be secured by the diversion of "very substantial financial and manpower resources" from other high priority defence tasks.

It says there will be no change in the policy that wherever possible the MoD police or RAF police should be responsible for dealing with intruders, rather than Servicemen, who are armed in case of terrorist attacks. But it adds that it would be an uneconomical use of manpower to increase police force levels

solely for this purpose, and that where necessary they should be reinforced by unarmed Servicemen.

The report says that the special type of fencing, described as weldmesh, which has been used at the Clyde Polaris base, will also be installed at the new Trident base being planned at Faslane. The initial results of trials have been "encouraging" and the evidence is being reviewed before taking a decision to erect similar fences at Greenham Common Cruise missile base in Berkshire.

The report admits that the Commons select committee on defence has discovered "weaknesses" in security systems in its report published last July, but rejects its recommendation that it should seek to provide the level of security which could guarantee to prevent unauthorised entry to the perimeter fence of defence establishments as "neither practical nor cost-effective."

COSTS (RISKS, ETC.)

# MoD admits security weaknesses

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