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1983

The Prime Minister is said to be taking a keen interest in the exercise, code-named Wintex 83, and hopes to take part, it was understood in Whitehall.

Under previous administrators, a top civil servant usually played the role of the Prime Minister.

Wintex is purely a paper exercise to rehearse Nato plans for transition to war in a scenario that begins with a sudden heightening of East-West tension and culminates, a fortnight later, in the final moments before a nuclear exchange.

No troops or equipment on the ground will be moved, but the exercise gives valuable training at command staff level in all the vital national and "dual key" nuclear release procedures.

'Dual key' system

Britain's first major involvement in the "dual key" system was with Tnor. An RAF launch control officer could turn the key to fire one of the 60 nuclear-armed intermediate-range ballistic missiles sited in East Anglia on instructions relayed from the Prime Minister. But until a second key was turned by an American on orders from the United States President, there could be no firing.

Thors were withdrawn by 1964, but the "dual key" system survives today in, for instance, the control of the Lance battlefield support missile deployed in BAOR. Whereas the Royal Navy can fire Polaris independently on instructions from the Prime Minister as a general rule weapons that rely on a supply of nuclear warheads owned by the United States remain controlled by some form of "dual key" system.

When the deployment of Cruise missiles in Britain was first considered, the United States offered a "dual key" arrangement. But as this assumed British ownership and maintenance of the system through purchase of the equipment, with American personnel controlling missile launch with a second key, the option was rejected because of the cost burden on an already over-committed defence budget.

Mr Heseltine has expressed the view that purely national control of American nuclear systems based in Britain, such as the F-111 strike aircraft, has set an example that has stood the test of time

# Premier may take part in nuclear war exercise

By Air Cdre G. S. COOPER, Defence Staff

A TOP SECRET two-week exercise, in which Ministers rehearse plans to prepare Britain for the run-up to nuclear war, is planned for early March, it was disclosed

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No Sir, you can't 15-11-85 see the plans

LABOUR councillors in nuclear free zones are being denied access to wartime emergency planning documents, even though the same documents are being issued to senior council officers.

A copy of an emergency planning document, known as BARPLAN, which relates to the defence of Barry, Cardiff and Newport, was sent to the Emergency Planning Officer and the Chief Fire Officer of South Glamorgan county council by the Navy Flag Officer in Plymouth. Officers working for neighbouring Gwent county council have also received copies. BARPLAN has a 'restricted' classification and was given to the Glamorgan officers on the understanding that its contents shouldn't be revealed to 'unauthorised' people.

It's not clear whether the chair of the council's Public Protection Committee, Barry Murray, is such a person, but the Chief Executive is refusing him access to the document while legal advice is being sought.

It has also been learned that Glamorgan's Wartime Controller designate regularly attends meetings at the Army's Welsh headquarters in Brecon where wartime and peacetime contingencies, including strikes, are discussed. Some councillors have suggested that this is incompatible with South Glamorgan's nuclear-free policies, though Barry Murray says it's 'an important issue that the Labour group hasn't yet adequately discussed'.

The case highlights the awkward situation faced by officers working for such councils. The situation is made worse by the Home Office demanding civil defence plans to be completed by the end of December.

But even local government officers don't have unrestricted access to emergency planning material. At a recent BARPLAN review meeting, Gwent's chief executive was asked to leave because he was 'not cleared with

Emergency Planning

8 The Daily Telegraph, Tuesday, October 11, 1983

# UNDERGROUND CAR PARKS 'COULD BE ATOM SHELTERS'

By DAVID FLETCHER, Health Services Correspondent

UNDERGROUND car parks and disused mine workings should be adapted for use as nuclear shelters, the Conservative Medical Society urged in a report yesterday.

It calls for tax encouragement to be given to the construction of underground shelters, which could also be used for car parking, where new buildings are being erected.

Small bunkers containing essential medical supplies, including vital pain-killing drugs such as morphine, should be set up throughout the country.

The society urges the medical profession not to be defeatist but to co-operate with plans for a nuclear emergency. Its report follows the British Medical Association study which found that medical services would be overwhelmed in the event of even a single nuclear explosion.

## Political dogma

The society says: "There has been much misrepresentation of the BMA's report on the medical effects of nuclear war in order to foster a completely defeatist attitude and for propaganda for disarmament at any price."

The report states that political dogma is holding up the protection of citizens in the event of nuclear war and calls on the Government to treat emergency planning as a matter of priority. "With determination much could be done at little expense to

reduce the casualties in the periphery of a burst and to make their chance of survival a little better and less horrific, if the unthinkable should happen."

The society admits that, in the event of nuclear war, medicine as we know it today would cease to exist. But it says that the Falklands war showed that much could be done by "non-medics" if they were properly trained.

"With some 50 per cent of doctors probably 'hors de combat' or dead, both care and pain relief for the seriously injured and treatment of minor injuries must be left to trained members of the general public."

The society adds: There should be decentralisation to the greatest possible degree — county, district, wards and even groups of streets under a leader and a few volunteers as in the days of the wartime wardens' posts."

The British Medical Association disclosed yesterday that it is to have talks with Home Office officials on the medical effects of nuclear war.