

Nuclear war is expected by most teenagers

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Most of Britain's teenagers think there will be a nuclear war — and more than half think it will happen within their lifetimes, according to a survey published yesterday.

The survey, of 15 to 18-year-olds, was commissioned by *TV Times* for ITV, which is screening the controversial film *The Day After* on December 10. The film, watched by 75 million people on American TV recently, shows the expected effects of a nuclear attack on a small town.

Business Decisions interviewed 422 teenagers on their attitudes to nuclear weapons. A total of 70 per cent said a nuclear war was inevitable, and 52 per cent said they thought it would happen in their lifetime.

The survey found that three out of four felt unilateral disarmament in this country would have no effect on the policies of other countries. Nearly two-thirds thought the presence of nuclear weapons in Britain was no protection from attack.

Despite their firm views, the youngsters knew little about nuclear weapons. Only half the boys and one-third of the girls knew what a Polaris missile was, and more than a third did not realise that atomic weapons were used in the last war.