164 bombs that 'destroyed UK'

THE United Kingdom was "hit" by 164 nuclear bombs at the weekend as part of the civil defence exercise, Intex 85, aimed at monitoring the effects of nuclear war on Europe.

Nuclear war bunkers, underground Royal Observer Corps posts, and county council emergency headquar-ters were manned to plot the course of the simulated nu-clear attack and the resultant fallout.

By the end of the day most of the British popula-tion was dead and a large proportion of the rest doomed.

The exercise normally unpublicised to deter demonstrations, is held annually to help train volunteers and

test communications systems.

In Northampton, Mr Alan
Farrell, the national secretary of the Association of
Civil Defence and Emergency Planning Officers, said he thought more public informa-

tion was neccessary.

At his headquarters under
Northampton county hall,
teleprinters were busy from
8 am on Saturday with news of the first air-burst nuclear

An exercise at the weekend simulated the effects of a raid. Paul Brown went to Northampton to watch

attacks - mostly over mili-

The first bomb went off at Maidstone and there were more than 20 around Britain in a few minutes.

The pattern was repeated all over Nato with Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, West Germany, and the Isle of Man and Channel Islands taking part.

In Northampton, the scientific advisers were only in-terested in the war as it af-

Dr Roger Woodcock, a chemistry teacher, had al-ready prepared a map from the weather reports to show the likely extent and drift of fallout should bombs or missiles hit his part of England. The first air-bursts were plotted for blast and heat damage and only one on nearby Leicestershire caused blast and fire damage to the north-east of the county.

second bombs began with a two
megaton bomb on Aberdeen
aimed to destroy the oil industry. The first hit to worry Northampton was a one megaton bomb near Peter-borough at 11.40 am which appeared to be up-wind of the country's most heavilypopulated areas.

Other volunteers tested communications with the Leicestershire headquarters Leicestershire headquarters and exchanged messages. Raymet, the radio amateurs emergency network, had second-hand teleprinters bought from British Telecom for £5 each which they had converted into a radio-telephone system phone system.

The headquarters were linked to half a dozen other centres by several communication channels.

Mr Farrell believes in civil defence, although he ac-

knowledges that the vast ma-jority would die. He does not

advocate the idea of a limited nuclear attack, but says that radiation decays very quickly.

He feels that many lives could be saved in Northamptonshire if survivors were given the right information about fallout.

Mr Farrell is one of four officers and three support

officers and three support staff. He has 14 volunteer scientific advisers but needs about 40.

He also has around 80 other volunteers, mostly local authority senior officers, but to have a county-wide moni-toring service as suggested by Home Office circulars, he would need several thousand volunteers.

He says that finding these is virtually impossible, partly because CND publicity had been effective.

At 408 pm there, was a 800 kiloton ground-burst south of Northampton and at 7.40 pm a two megaton bomb left a crater where Stanwick had been.

It was clear that only around 100,000 of Northamp-tonshire's 560,000 population would have survived the ini-

