## Power base

Bernard Ingham will have in a nuclear war. The Prime EVER since I unearthed the umportant. going to where his loyalties lie) is loyal Press Secretary to Secretary (he was, once a Minister's loyal me just how much power fact, it has always worried Tony Benn, so I'm not sure be very, very Press

stock of Bernard. For he beans, we will also have to take stocking up with tins of baked State of Emergency, apart from It seems that when we have a

casting Authority. the Press Association, directorrun the Independent Broadgeneral of the BBC, and wil instantly becomes the head of

All sorts of eventualities were discussed; one of the MoD chappies asked, 'What about SCIP' Mr Ingham was puzzled and asked what it was. 'I'm not nuclear war, the planning of. discuss simple sure,' came the MoD reply, but you're in charge of it.' So, meeting of senior personnel at the Ministry of Defence to in case we have a nuclear war prepared Committee know—let me hastily tell Mr Ingham it stands for Strategic his weekend—and you never powers. He recently held a And Bernard Ingham is not for his awesome topics like Information

## digs deep for bunker

Paul Brown on the revelations of new military control centres being built under central London

being built under the Ministre code-named Pindar is A NEW bunker control cen-Whitehall six storeys deep at try of Defence building in cost of around £20 million.

article in the New States-man, is connected by under-ground tunnels to the Cabi-Street. The bunker, revealed in an Office and Downing

centre known as Cobra, and The bunker will replace the Cabinet Office control in the Ministry of Defence. the central military control room currently above ground

was going on to restructure existing bunkers and build under the ministry new communication centres Defence confirmed that work Last night the Ministry of

would not comment on reports of a second back-up bunker under High Holborn and plans by the Americans to build a bunker of their own under Goodge Street

bunkers was inadvertently punctured by the private builders brought in to do the work. Although there have been no visible signs of work deal with serious incidents. Secrecy about the London Fire Brigade twice been called to

The first occurred on the sixth floor below Whitehall, ment caught fire. The second was caused by the use of welding equipment in a large room on the fifth floor, with when some generating equip-

a build-up of heavy smoke. The Pindar plan was

underground station.

into operation while Britain Staff and military commands would be evacuated to bun-Before a nuclear attack ocis under conventional attack the list for enlargement and exchange Pindar and its back-up site in an underground telephone War Cabinet, Central Defence Holborn - which is next on kers in the countryside. under

A two-year argument over

inet had ordered a review of the Home defence plans. Cur-rent ministry operations rooms were vulnerable to cona phase of conventional at-tack before any nuclear new Nato war plans assumed ventional bombing attack and devised in 1980 afte rthe Cab-

High

work reaches secret street exits as widely separated as Bethnal Green and Maida under to replace surface Goodge Street is American plan

Mr Michael Heseltine, approved the bunkers as a secret military project. The High Holborn exchange was bunkers was settled in 1982 who should pay for the new of cable-carrying tunnels.

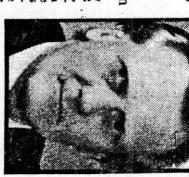
Ownership is now passing from British Telecom to the first built as a war-time shel when the Defence Secretary Ministry of Defence. kingsway telephone exchange er but when it became the was connected to 12 miles

BT's deep-level cable net

Michael Heseltine: funds approved in 1982

Mediterranean. However, the British Government is said to be nervous about providing bunker facilities for Americans in London when civilian Navy population

The Ministdry of Defence said the new bunker space was needed because existing acillities were cramped.



71110 DEFENCE