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# Secret maps of nuclear bomb's effect made public

HOME OFFICE MAPS showing that much of Britain would need evacuation or restrictions on going out of doors after a nuclear attack have been released after 30 years of secrecy.

They were suppressed by the Cabinet in November 1956 on the grounds that publication might increase public anxiety in the light of threats of Soviet action implied in protest notes over the invasion of Suez only days before, and draw attention to "inadequacy" of the preparations, which were being made.

The disclosure about the suppression was greeted with lack of surprise by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Minister Bruce Kent, the CND vice-chairman, said that nothing had changed — the Government was still "frightened"

to publish the facts.

The maps were prepared for a proposed pamphlet to promote self-help.

Gwyn Lloyd-George, the then Home Secretary, who was also Minister for Welsh Affairs, wanted both maps and pamphlet to be on general sale.

His view was rejected by the Cabinet, which decided that the pamphlet should only be issued to local councils for civil defence use, and that maps showing specific areas should not be used in it.

The two maps, released this month by the Public Record Office under the 30-year rule for Cabinet papers, show the effects of an H-bomb dropped on Liverpool. Both maps show a north-west wind spreading radioactive fall-out in a huge swathe across central England.

Different weather conditions cause a slightly different pattern of danger zones on each map.

The most highly contaminated area — Zone Z — is shown to include Stoke-on-Trent and Burton-on-Trent as well as the fringes of Warrington and Manchester.

The paper presented to the Cabinet by the Home Secretary said of Zone Z: "There would be no alternative to removing everyone within it. This movement would be planned to start after 48 hours had elapsed from the time of burst."

The maps also show a Zone Y which includes Manchester, Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Stockport, Derby, the edge of Nottingham, Leicester, Northampton, the northern half of Bedfordshire, northern Hertfordshire and part of Essex.

Here, said the Home Office paper, "the emphasis would be on people staying where they were. If they were not to become sick, restrictions on the time they could spend out of doors after an initial period of 48 hours in refuge accommodation would be inevitable."

"Thus in Zone Y they would be restricted to two hours per day in the open for the next 12 days, and four hours for the rest of the first month."

The next worst area, Zone X, would take in areas as far afield as London, Essex and Kent, together with Huddersfield, Barnsley, Doncaster, Sheffield, Rotherham, Lincoln, Nottingham, Coventry and the fringes of Birmingham and Walsall, depending on the weather. Parts of Norfolk and Suffolk could also

be included. In this zone people would have to stay where they were for 48 hours and then face five days of being restricted to four hours a day outside.

A wider area, taking in the whole of East Anglia and Lincolnshire on the east, and the West Midlands conurbation on the west, was designated Zone W. The only restriction in that area would be that everyone would have to stay indoors for 48 hours.

The draft copy of the proposed pamphlet does not appear among the newly-released records. A Public Record Office official said this was presumably because it had been given the limited circulation decided by the Cabinet, and therefore had not been kept with still-secret documents like the maps.

## Telecom order 'mock A-blasts'

By Roger Highfield  
Technology Correspondent

THE EFFECTS of nuclear blasts are being simulated in a north London suburb to help utilities and companies plan for the effects of nuclear war.

A nuclear blast produces a brief but devastating pulse of electromagnetic energy across a wide spectrum including heat, light, and radio waves.

Radiowave pulses, some of the most damaging, are being simulated by Belling Lee Intec of Enfield for the North Thames Water Authority, British Telecom, ICI and the BBC, among others.

They want to find out how their equipment would fare in the electromagnetic pulse of a nuclear explosion, Mr Peter Cruse, the managing director, disclosed yesterday.

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