

# DICK STEWART

Talks about Strathclyde's stance on the nuclear threat



# What we believe

WHY did the Regional Council refuse to take part in the Government's civil defence exercise called Hard Rock last autumn? Surely it is in everyone's interest that as much preparation as possible should be made to deal with an event like a nuclear attack?

CIVIL defence is largely aimed at preserving the machinery of government. Successive administrations have made it clear that there would be no attempt to try to provide protection for the general public.

If government was concerned to protect the public, it would be spending the thousands of millions of pounds needed to provide underground shelters for the people of Britain.

Instead, spending for the whole of Scotland for 1983/84 is £2.3 million — equal to 42p per head of population.

The Regional Council considers that the presence of so many nuclear bases around the Clyde makes the West of Scotland a prime target for nuclear attack.

That is why, in seeking to have the area of Strathclyde recognised



THAT has been the view of successive governments in the past and may well have been true then.

But weapons can now be targeted with incredible precision against other weapons rather than against cities. This makes the military believe now in the possibility of pre-emptive strikes.

Secondly, there are now so many weapons — about 20 times more than needed to kill the whole world — owned by a growing number of diverse regimes that the danger of accidental war has greatly increased.

It was essentially those reasons which led so many people in Strathclyde over the past couple of years to demonstrate their concern and persuaded the Regional Council to commit itself to the campaign for the removal of nuclear bases.

WHAT has the Regional Council done to pursue this commitment?

IT has:

- Lodged an objection to the development of the Trident base; Coulpont.
- Organised a public inquiry to explore the various planning and strategic arguments in relation to this proposal.