

# Strong support for Trident inquiry

THE Government recently announced its plan to replace the independent weapon system carried in Polaris submarines and based at Couplort on the Clyde with the Trident system.

Unlike normal planning applications, the Ministry of Defence proposals are not subject to the decisions of local government.

A District Council Planning Committee can decide on whether or not to allow a "hot food carry-out" to open but neither it nor the Regional Council — the strategic planning authority — is allowed to decide whether or not there should be a nuclear weapons base on someone's doorstep.

## Development

Normally on a development of this scale, there would be a public inquiry to allow the various arguments to be put to an independent person who would report his views to the Secretary of State.

Twelve months after the initial advertisement of the Couplort proposals, there was still no indication that the Government would hold a public inquiry and allow the

arguments to be heard openly and debated democratically.

Strathclyde Regional Council, with the support of almost all the 19 District Councils, decided to organise a public inquiry of its own.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are: "To receive and consider with regard to the Government's proposed siting of Trident missiles at

Couplort, Dumbarton, all the evidence, whether written or verbal, before them on the impact of Trident on employment, services, health, safety, pollution, propensity to nuclear attack and any other matter which they consider relevant and thereafter to assess that evidence and report their findings on it to the Regional Council."

# One-man rule over those who survive

IN the aftermath of a nuclear attack, the present system of control would break down.

Experience shows that looting and violence would probably be common.

The maintenance of public order would be the responsibility of Regional Commissioners of whom

## LAW AND ORDER IS A PRIORITY

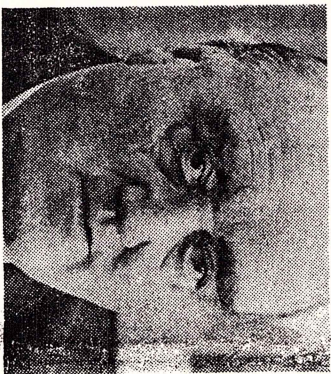
there would be one for Scotland based in Edinburgh.

His powers would be backed by surviving police

and armed forces and a system of courts with emergency powers.

To quote a Home Office circular: "In conditions in which death, destruction and injury were commonplace, such penalties as probation, fines or sentences of imprisonment would no longer be effective. Such penalties as communal labour, restricted rations and exposure to public disapproval might be appropriate for all but the gravest offences but, in the case of flagrantly anti-social behaviour, there might be a need for harsher penalties than would be generally acceptable in peace-time . . ."

# SURELY THEY MUST KNOW...



"... It is right for information about civil defence and the likely effects of a future war involving the UK to be made generally available in peacetime. The public has a right to knowledge of these matters."

Rt. Honourable WILLIAM WHITE, LAW PC, MP, Home Secretary — February 2, 1982, House of Commons.



"... In an all-out nuclear war, more destructive power than in all of World War II would be unleashed every second . . . The survivors, if any, would live in despair and the poisoned ruins of a civilisation that had committed suicide . . ."

President JIMMY CARTER in his farewell address to the Nation — January 14, 1981.



"... As the British Government's White Paper on Defence put it as long ago as 1957, there are no means of protecting the population against the consequences of nuclear attack. There are none today . . ."

LORD ZUCKERMAN, formerly Chief Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence, in Nuclear Illusion and Reality, Collins 1982.

## The source mater

The sources from which publication has been possible are all publicly available restricted or classified information although some may be an earlier date.

Those Scottish Health Department circulars (Scott) i.e., ES Services (Scotland) are not now restricted.

Nuclear Weapon: Home and Health 1980: Protect and HHSO: Strathclyde Council Minutes various Committees Policy and Resource and Planning and Committee: Strathclyde Council, Abstract of Financial Report, 1980: Strathclyde Council: Public Relations Press cuttings files Deliverances of various denunciations on 1980/82: Abs Journal of the Royal Academy of Sciences NATO Document A (Second Revised) 1977.

The short-term nuclear attack on Scientists Against N 1982: London: Allen Oxford University f Beneath City Street Granada, 1978: £ SANA (West) Media Apocalyse Now: 1 battle: Noel-Zuckerman, Spokes

... Regional Commissioners, acting through their commissioners of justice, would be empowered to impose such penalties as they thought fit in the light of conditions and circumstances at that time."

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