

should be shown everywhere on earth."

THE BBC!



after the nuclear attack. RIGHT: Police shoot casualties in medical category radiation sickness who would place an unbearable strain on devastated with that results from radiation sickness. Brutal but realistic scenes like these

trust of British defence of nuclear deterrence". British political establishment and intelligence the whole period when been shaped". Normanbrook himself very soon after in a letter (9.9.65) to Sir of the Cabinet. After traint" (see above) he

M CAMPAIGN DISARMAMENT

necessarily alarming; and on television might well on public attitudes the nuclear deterrent. In doubt whether the BBC responsibility of deciding l be shown on televi- hat the Government nity of expressing a view later, Sir Burke Trend he Home Office, the e military Chiefs of Staff gether with Norman- en - viewed the film. tions was the feeling that film would have the

effect (whatever its intention) of lending support to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament". The "major question of policy", they agreed, was whether it was "in the public interest" to show the film on television. 11 days later, Normanbrook had another meeting with Burke Trend and two top civil servants, who reported that the various ministers had been informed about the film and had said the decision should be left to the BBC. Normanbrook added, in his note of the meeting: "it is clear that Whitehall will be relieved if we do not show it". The decision to ban the film from television was made, Tracey believes, by Normanbrook between November 22 and 24 - though "there is no record in the BBC archives" of "who made the decision and why". Tracey says that "both" Normanbrook and Hugh Greene (the then BBC Director General) were "involved" in the decision. Greene was trying "to create a BBC in which imagination and wit, perception and talent could prevail". However, says Tracey, "Normanbrook began to have doubts about the direction of Hugh Greene's BBC". In order to avoid "a confrontation with the Chairman" Greene "went along with Normanbrook's decision that the film should not be shown". Greene has insisted that the decision was his alone - and that Normanbrook "would always

Kenneth Tynan, *The Observer*

fall over backwards to prevent his past career and contacts from influencing his activities in the BBC". Not so, says Tracey - "on this occasion he did not do so, and the papers show that conclusively". The BBC then "put forward the most publicly acceptable reason - the impact of the horror on the sensitive - for "not televising the film..."

Alasdair Milne, BBC TV's Managing Director, has recently publicly opposed lifting the ban on the grounds that "I find the film is dated".

While it is obviously true that the political leaders and flashpoints of 1965 have changed - and that since then nuclear warheads have increased in sophistication, accuracy and numbers, and new delivery systems have evolved - there is no doubt that the picture the film gives of how individuals would suffer in a nuclear war remains accurate. In similar vein, Neville Wareham, Chief Assistant to the BBC Secretariat, cites the fact that the film "shows Civil Defence preparations of a kind which the Government no longer envisages". This could easily be put to rights by a quick announcement that plans for mass evacuation (of everyone except able-bodied males over 18) were officially abandoned in the late 1960s. Present plans envisage coercing the population into staying at home.

This "dated" film still regularly attracts large audiences to private showings up and down the country. The British Film Institute, to whom, on 24 February 1966, the BBC agreed to release the film for cinema and club showings, have since held 8 copies - each one constantly booked up 3-4 months in advance. In 1979, Concord Films of Ipswich obtained 5 copies, and now have 20 - and these have also required 3-4 months advanced booking.

Sir Ian Trethowan, the present Director General of the BBC has said: "The BBC exists to serve the public" (Radio 4, 14.9.80). We invite everyone to join in the campaign to persuade the BBC to serve the public in this most vital of areas - our future survival. Can anyone really agree with Mary Whitehouse's recent claim that the banning of "The War Game" "was one of the most enlightened decisions made in recent television history"???

SEE IT AT.....

stamp on place and time of showing here.