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PHOTOMONTAGE PETER KENNARD

CIVIL DEFENCE: *bunkers or bonkers?*



**PUT
PEOPLE
FIRST.**
nalgo

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There are many good reasons for getting rid of nuclear weapons – here are eight of them...

British workers give up, on average, three years' pay to the arms race.

If you put this pamphlet on your head before a nuclear attack it will give you almost as much protection from the holocaust as you can expect from any Government plans for survival.

Whitewashing windows, building makeshift shelters with doors and garden soil or even sheltering under the kitchen table are some of the Government's suggestions.

These measures, and new civil defence regulations which became law on 1 December 1983, are supposed to help recovery and survival, and to preserve government.

One scientific study estimates that 72% of the population would die and that 8% would be seriously injured within four weeks of a limited nuclear attack on the UK. The figures, by Scientists Against Nuclear Arms, exclude deaths from fire, famine, disease and the effects of longer term radiation. The British Medical Association views these figures as more realistic than the Home Office's estimate of 15 million to 30 million deaths, depending, as the Government claims, on the number of people who follow Home Office advice.

Even assuming that such a high rate of survival were possible, it would mean that 30 million people would have to be fed, housed and given medical treatment in a hostile, bitterly cold, contaminated wasteland.

Survivors would face deep psychological shock, starvation (livestock and plantlife would be devastated) cancers, scavenging rodents and insects (which can tolerate higher levels of radiation

than human beings) and climatical and geological catastrophes.

The NHS couldn't cope

The British Medical Association reckons that one nuclear bomb dropped on a British city would cause more casualties than the whole of the NHS could handle. Indeed, the after effects of nuclear devastation would be such that 'the survivors would envy the dead' according to the first Congress of International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War.

Just one nuclear weapon can release more destructive energy in about one millionth of a second than all conventional weapons used in all previous wars. (And there are enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world many times over).

In the face of such destruction, civil defence is a sick charade. The only sensible way to ensure survival, and prevention of a nuclear attack, is not to have nuclear weapons at all. Then Britain could concentrate on conventional defence not nuclear aggression which fuels the arms race and makes Britain a prime target in a nuclear war.

Lord Zuckerman, a former Scientific Advisor to the Government, has written: 'As the British White Paper on Civil Defence put it as long ago as 1957, there are no means of protecting the population against the consequences of a nuclear attack. There are none

There are already enough nuclear weapons to wipe out the world's population ten times over.



today when the scale of attack that could be envisaged is at least one hundred times greater than it was 20 years ago.'

But the Government sees things differently. Its new civil defence regulations are intended to force local authorities to take part in regular nuclear war games.

They will have to provide wartime headquarters, ensure that "an appropriate" number of staff is trained in civil defence and make other members of staff available for Home Office or county council civil defence training.

Why NALGO objects

NALGO believes that the real aim of the civil defence regulations is to get people to accept the risk of nuclear war and to condition them into believing that such a horrific war can be limited, survived and even won.

People should be encouraged instead to work towards peace not towards accepting and trying to survive a holocaust. The Government's civil defence war games will be seen by a foreign nuclear power as preparation for, and a willingness to fight, a nuclear war.

To produce the supplies and equipment needed to cope with the nuclear aftermath, Britain would have to be put on a constant war alert. The siting of cruise nuclear missiles and the Government's plans to introduce an £11,000 million system of Trident submarine nuclear missiles adds to

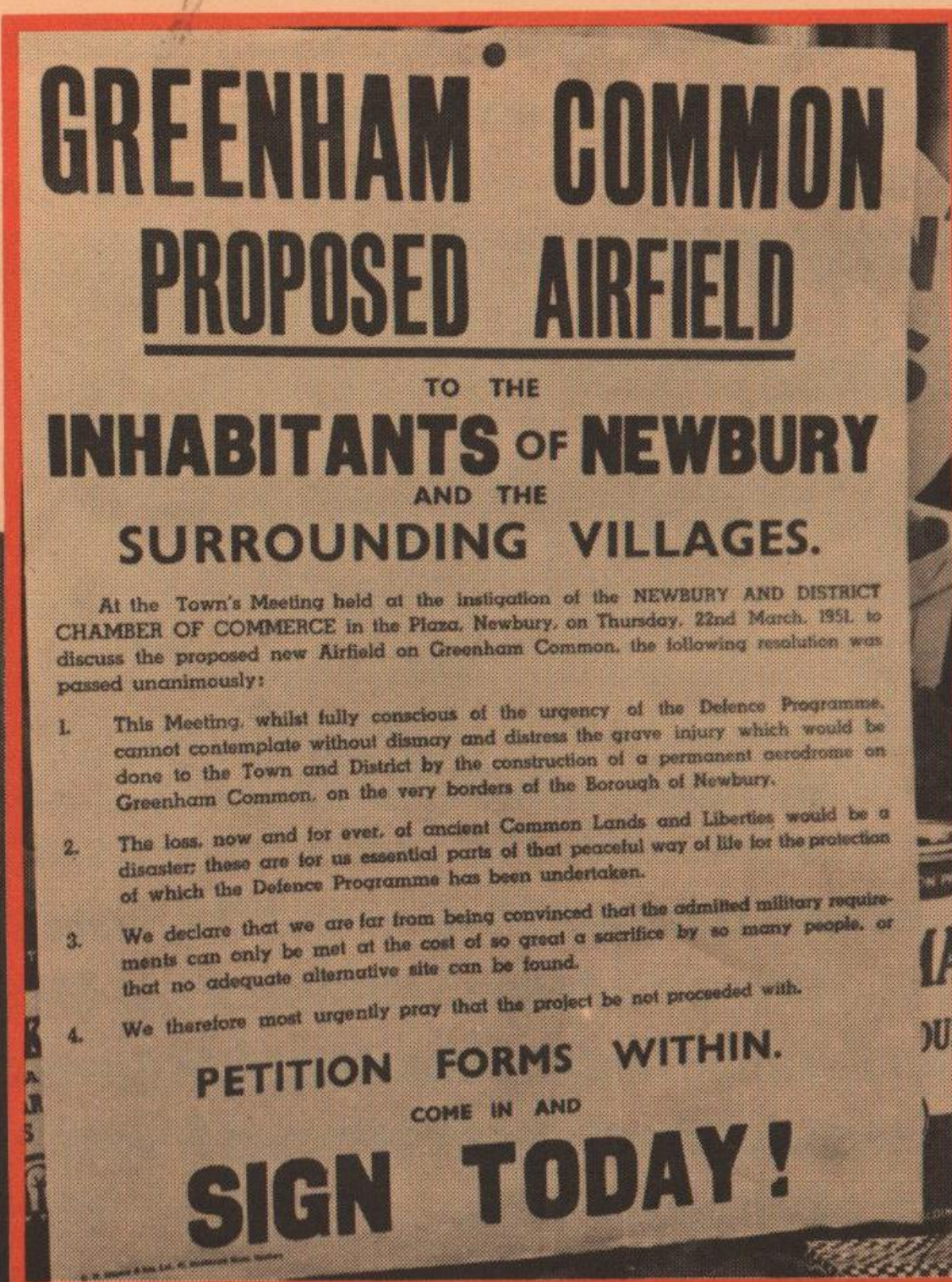


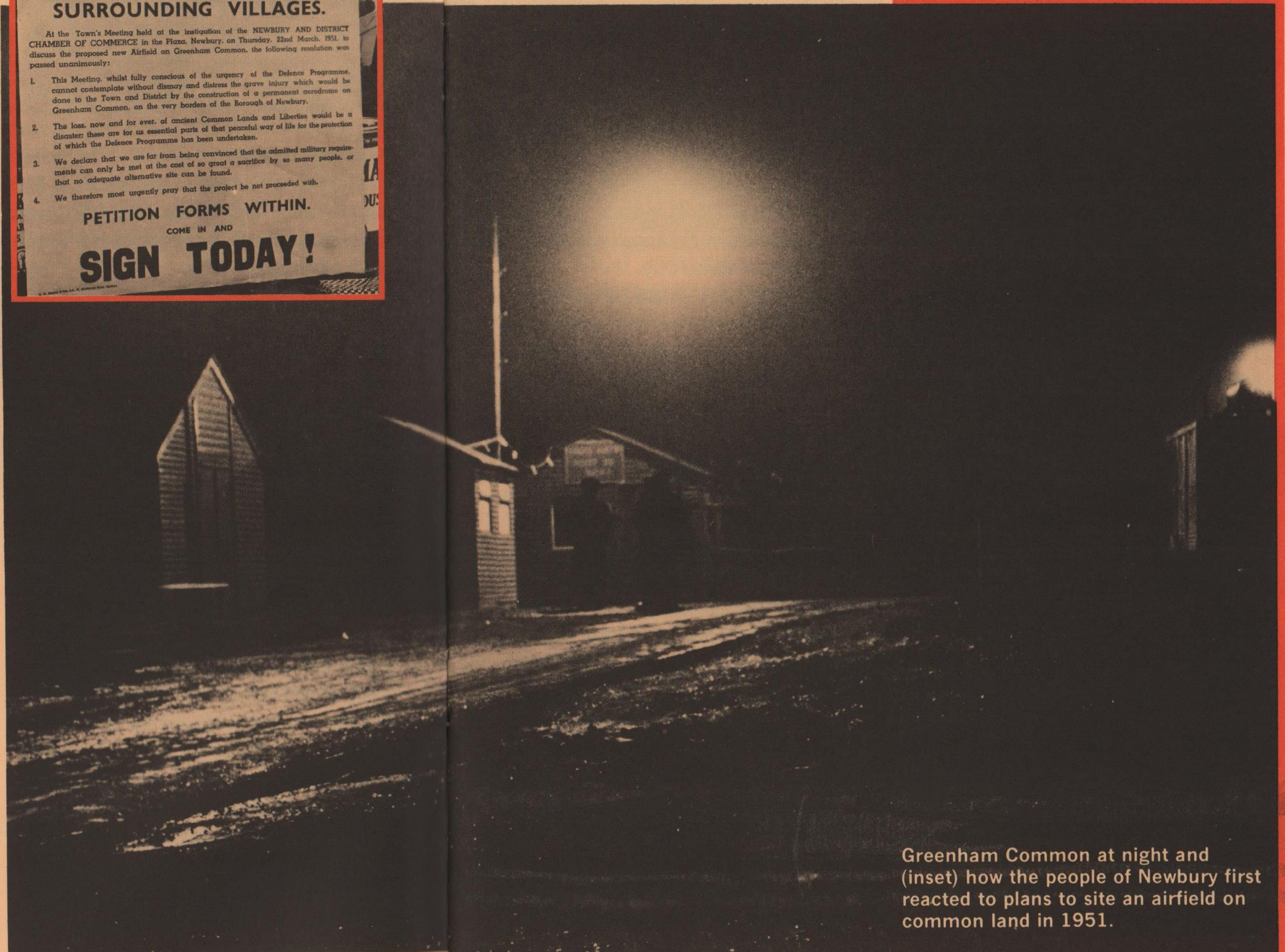
PHOTO: HENRY GRANT

this image of aggression not defence.

The more weapons that are stockpiled, the greater the chance of a nuclear war starting in error. The annihilation of the human race could hinge on a computer malfunction.

NALGO's members are involved in

Only West Germany has more nuclear bases than Britain — each one makes us more of a target.



Greenham Common at night and (inset) how the people of Newbury first reacted to plans to site an airfield on common land in 1951.

PHOTO: MARTIN BOND

improving the quality of life. They work in services aimed at improving the health and well-being of people. These services have been cut, or development has been curbed, while spending on defence has been sustained. If the Government really cared about improving the remote chance of ordinary people surviving a nuclear war, it would expand, not cut, NHS services.

NALGO's Conference has resolved that the union will support any members who, for conscientious reasons, refuse to undertake civil defence duties. The union considers that conscientious objection should be respected and supported as it is in military service. But NALGO also recognises that local authorities have a statutory obligation to carry out relief measures during civil emergencies and war. And it will support those of its members who, on grounds of conscience, undertake training in humanitarian tasks.

The new civil defence regulations will also add to the burden of extra work borne by NALGO members in understaffed and underfinanced services. But NALGO was not consulted when the draft regulations were first drawn up.

NALGO believes that the new civil defence regulations further erode local democracy. Local authorities could be forced to take part in war games and to provide control centres. More than 150 local councils which have declared themselves nuclear-free zones will either have to confront the Government or surrender their democratic right to make local decisions.

Protection racket

The whole nuclear civil defence exercise is about controlling people. It is aimed at upholding and safeguarding government and established authority.

It cannot protect ordinary people from the holocaust. The Government will no longer pay for public civil defence shelters and shelters in schools.

Local authorities, health authorities, Government departments, British Telecom, the BBC, police and the army all have their places in a nuclear civil defence hierarchy.

Commissioners would be appointed by central government to civil defence regions and sub-regions. Each would rule their patch from an underground bunker with the help of top police staff and army officers.

In counties and districts the local authority chief executive would have power over life and death.

The totalitarian chain of command would extend down to parish councils. During a nuclear attack, roads would be blocked, troops would be used to restrict people to certain areas and to quell disorder.

Civil defence should be about coping with natural disasters – floods, fires and industrial accidents.

It is this type of emergency planning which NALGO believes deserves greater development, encouragement and financial support from the Government.

Civil defence is governed by the Civil Defence Act 1948 and subsequent

regulations. It is concerned with the effects of an attack by an hostile power.

County councils and London boroughs will have to set up emergency centres capable of being used after a nuclear attack.

Civil defence regulations

– what they mean to NALGO members

Top staff of local councils and health authorities would have key wartime roles. Chief executives of councils could be wartime controllers. Directors of works would be in charge of the disposal of the dead following a nuclear attack. These staff would have to attend training courses run by the Home Office or by county councils.

Other local authority staff may have to attend courses; cooks may have to learn how to prepare meals after a nuclear attack; library staff may be asked to show the public how to find the materials to build the simple shelters outlined in the Home Office booklet 'protect and survive'. Parks staff may be asked to learn how to dig mass graves.

New employees may have to take part in civil defence training exercises. Many local authorities want this requirement to be in the job descriptions of new entrants – and the Home Office is reported to be sympathetic.

Civil defence exercises are most likely to be held after normal working



CARTOON: CATH JACKSON

"Attempting to keep zombies separate from clear (sic) local residents." Rochford HQ telex during Home Office exercise "Scrum Half".

Britain spends a higher percentage of its budget on defence than any other country in Western Europe (£18 a week for each household in 1982/83).

Inside part of the Greater London Council's nuclear shelter at Wanstead.

**CONTROL and
CO-ORDINATION
Military &
Police Liaison
room 13** ↘

hours and they could last well into the night. They may even go on overnight for several days running.

County council staff, helped by staff from districts and boroughs, may also be asked to train volunteers at evenings and weekends.

The last war game

The last rehearsal for a nuclear war was held in 1980. It was a 'home defence' exercise which involved civil authorities. A civil/military exercise scheduled for Autumn 1982 had to be cancelled because too many local authorities refused to take part.

The 1980 exercise assumed that all

big population centres in Britain had been destroyed by 125 bombs with a power total of 200 megatons (about 200 million tons of TNT). This is equivalent to 13,000 Hiroshima bombs (the estimated final death toll from the Hiroshima bomb was 200,000).

Water, electricity and gas supplies would be hit. Rivers would flood. Nuclear power stations and nuclear bases would be hit – adding their long-lived radioactivity to the deadliness of the exploded weapons. Tens of millions of casualties would lay where they had died causing killer diseases. Food supplies would be disrupted or cease to exist – at least 14 days of supplies would be needed initially.

The Home Office has plans to house people made homeless by a nuclear attack. But accommodating people

made homeless during the blitz years of the Second World War was difficult enough. It would be impossible to house people made homeless on the scale of 13,000 Hiroshimas in three hours.

On treating casualties, a Home Office circular says hospitals should accept people 'who would be likely to be alive after seven days with a fair chance of eventual recovery.'

The Home Office wants to evacuate doctors and nurses and other health staff from cities to rural areas. But the British Medical Association says this plan could not succeed because it would cause 'widespread civil disturbance' from most of the population who would want to follow them.

The BMA, in a report which took 18 months to compile with evidence from 70 organisations and individuals, says: 'The burden of casualties from just one bomb dropped on a city would completely overwhelm the medical facilities of this country'.

The report criticises the Government for giving the notion that rescue services could spring into action immediately after a nuclear attack – as they did after the bombing during the last war – as 'dangerously unrealistic'. It says that by the time radiation had fallen to acceptable levels some 14 to 21 days later, most of the injured would have died.

Medical evidence, scientific evidence, logistics and just plain common sense tells you that civil defence nuclear war games, in a country as densely populated as Britain, are a deadly lie

For every ten jobs created in defence, 13 could be created in the NHS and 15 in local government.

The effects of a 1 megaton groundburst nuclear bomb at Leeds Town Hall

TOTAL POSSIBLE CASUALTIES

507,000 of the city's population of 713,000 could be killed or injured.

BLAST DAMAGE

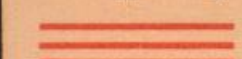
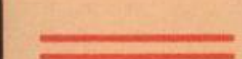

All buildings destroyed
108,000 killed, 2,000 injured

Most buildings destroyed
76,000 killed, 61,000 injured


Buildings severely damaged
12,000 killed, 113,000 injured

HEAT EFFECTS

on people outside in the open

-  third degree or fatal burns
-  second degree or serious burns
-  first degree or mild burns

PATTERN OF RADIOACTIVE FALL-OUT (for westerly wind)

 500 rads fall-out contour
400-600 rads is the usual lethal dose for healthy adults over a short period. The closer to the centre of the area bounded by the contour the more deadly the dose (up to 15,000 rads). 245,000 survivors of blast and heat effects would be at risk of receiving a lethal dose of radiation within 2 days of the explosion.



to make the prospect of nuclear war acceptable.

Peace is more likely if we take real steps towards nuclear disarmament. The arms race only increases the threat of nuclear war.

What NALGO members can do

- refuse to volunteer for civil defence exercises and training
- set up workplace CND groups
- support local authorities' nuclear-free zones
- take part in national and local demonstrations against nuclear weapons and bases
- sign, and get your colleagues to sign, petitions against nuclear weapons and bases
- get your branch to invite a speaker from the CND, the European Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament or the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons
- get your branch to show anti-nuclear films/peace films (a good source is The Concord Films Council, 201 Felixstowe Rd., Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9BJ – 'phone 0473 76012/715754)
- demand that employers should recognise the right of all NALGO members conscientiously to object to taking part in war planning exercises
- work with other unions to produce a local study of the effects of a nuclear attack
- tell the public how ridiculous it is to plan locally for a nuclear war when the national plans are being kept secret

NALGO policy

NALGO affiliated to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament following a resolution by its annual conference in 1981 which also pledged the union's support for unilateral nuclear disarmament and for a nuclear-free zone in Europe.

Annual conference resolutions in 1981 and 1983 rejected civil defence planning for a nuclear war as a "sham" and "hypocrisy" because it encourages people to believe that such a war could be survived. NALGO is opposed to any attempt to conscript workers into nuclear war preparations and to the training of volunteers in emergency service roles in which they could be used as strike breakers.

At least 23 national unions are affiliated to the CND whose aims are:

...."unilateral abandonment by Britain of nuclear weapons, nuclear bases and nuclear alliances as a prerequisite for a British foreign policy which has the worldwide abolition of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons leading to general and complete disarmament, as its prime objective.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is opposed to the manufacture, stockpiling, testing, use and threatened use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons by any country and the policies of any country or group of countries which make nuclear war more likely, or which hinder progress towards a world without weapons of mass destruction".

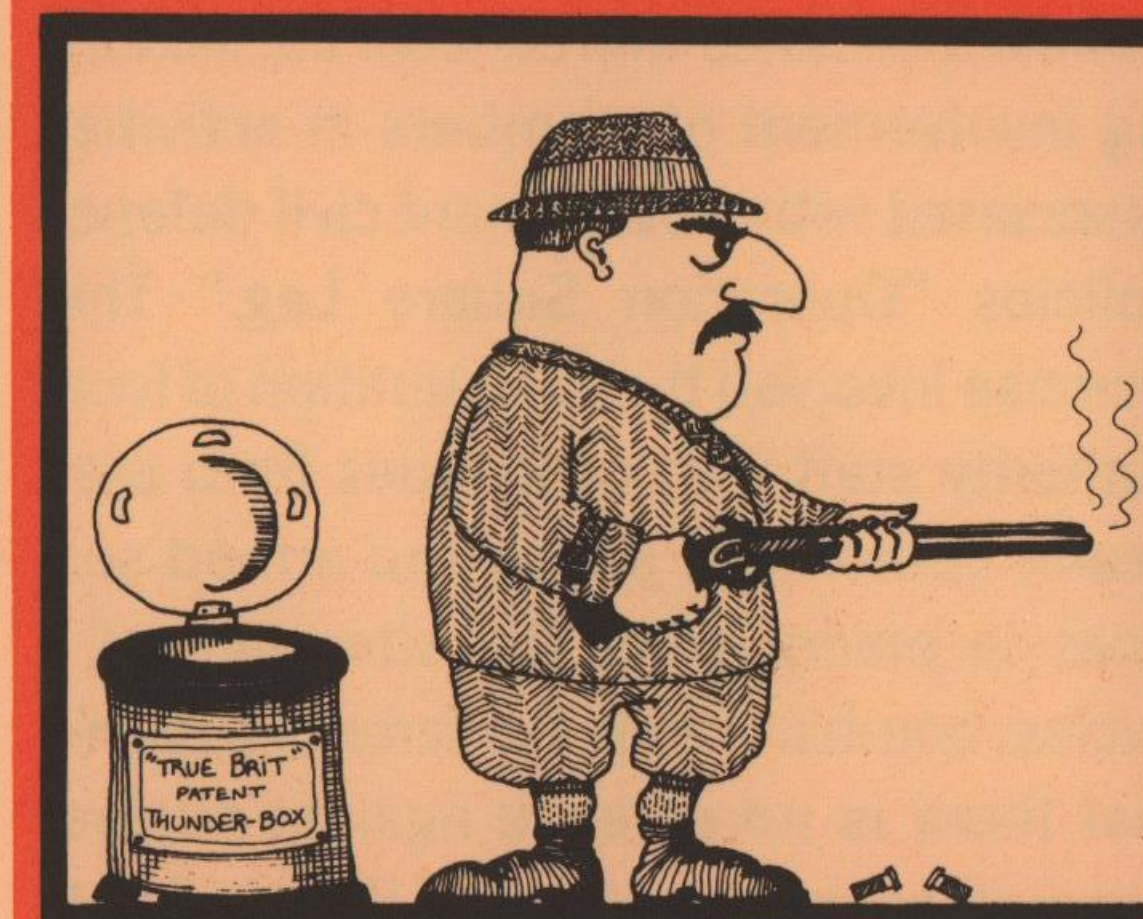
Resolutions on civil defence and nuclear disarmament passed by NALGO conferences since 1981, include:

"This Conference notes with concern the Government's decision to allow the siting of Cruise missiles in Britain and the decision to spend £4½ billion on the purchase of four Trident missile submarines whilst at the same time reducing the living standards of all public service workers, making massive cuts in essential public services and keeping over two million people unemployed.

Conference is also concerned with the ever increasing number of weapons and systems which daily increase the probability of a nuclear holocaust in which there will be few survivors and certainly no victors.

Conference therefore:

- Supports the policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament.
- Supports the appeal for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Europe.
- Opposes expenditure on nuclear arms by all nations and resolves to campaign within the trade union and labour movement to persuade the Government to transfer resources from military expenditure to more socially useful projects.
- Opposes the deployment of Cruise missiles in the UK and the purchase of Trident missiles and calls upon its members and the NEC and the TUC to support the building of a mass campaign of protest against Cruise and Trident missiles.
- Resolves to affiliate to and support the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament."



CARTOON: CATH JACKSON

"The trouble started when Miss Fritch said no provision had been made for chemical toilets. She reckoned that we would need about 8,000 chemical toilets to carry on in the normal way. This produced some jeering from the defeatist element on the committee, one of whom asked what we would do when 100,000 contaminated Londoners poured into our village. I said that this figure was most unreliable given the PFR – probable fatality rate – but if they came in, they would be shot." Member of a local nuclear home defence committee (Sussex Express, 18.4.80).

Britain's civil defence budget is £60 million a year – military spending accounts for almost the same amount every day.

"Conference notes with concern the increasing involvement of members in activities associated with Government civil defence policies "Operation Square Leg." This exercise involved the co-operation of local authority staff with colleagues from area health authorities, police and armed services in planning for the aftermath of a nuclear bombardment. Conference believes that there is no defence against nuclear war and that preparations of this kind only serve to heighten the risk of disaster by conditioning people to accept that such a war is inevitable and can be survived.

Conference, therefore, agrees to expose the hypocrisy of the Government's civil defence programmes and to bring this to the attention of its members who may be involved in exercises that include preparation for nuclear war and resolves to support members and branches who refuse to be involved in such preparations.

It instructs the NEC to take such action as may be necessary to protect any member who may be in any way prejudiced as a result of following his or her conscience in this matter."

"Conference condemns the Government plans to increase the war planning duties of public authorities and the attempt to conscript unwilling workers into taking part in war-planning which is an insufferable limitation of the civil liberties of public employees. Conference believes that these plans are a sham, designed to mislead the public into thinking that a nuclear war could be survivable.

Conference is opposed to any increased expenditure on so-called 'civil defence' by a nuclear weapons state, particularly when

other public authority services are being slashed and lives now are put at risk because of health service cuts.

Conference instructs the NEC

- (i) strenuously to oppose any attempt to conscript workers into nuclear war preparations or any training of volunteers in emergency service roles which might enable them to be used as strike breakers;
- (ii) to inform union members that they will have the support of the union if they refuse to take part on the grounds of personal consciences or on the grounds that his/her contract of employment has been unilaterally varied, and to draw up such contingency plans as may be necessary to protect members if the proposals become law, such plans to include arrangements for the monitoring of any discrimination by employers against members who oppose this war planning and the central collation of evidence of such discrimination;
- (iii) to approach NALGO's Parliamentary advisers urging them to support NALGO's declared policies with regard to this issue both inside and outside Parliament;
- (iv) Conference reaffirms the policy adopted at the 1981 Conference instructing the National Executive Council to take such action as may be necessary to protect any member who may be in any way prejudiced as a result of following his or her conscience in the matter. Conference also instructs the National Executive Council to provide branches with

further publicity material exposing the hypocrisy of civil defence planning for nuclear war, and to campaign for support for these policies among other trade unions who have members concerned with any aspect of civil defence.

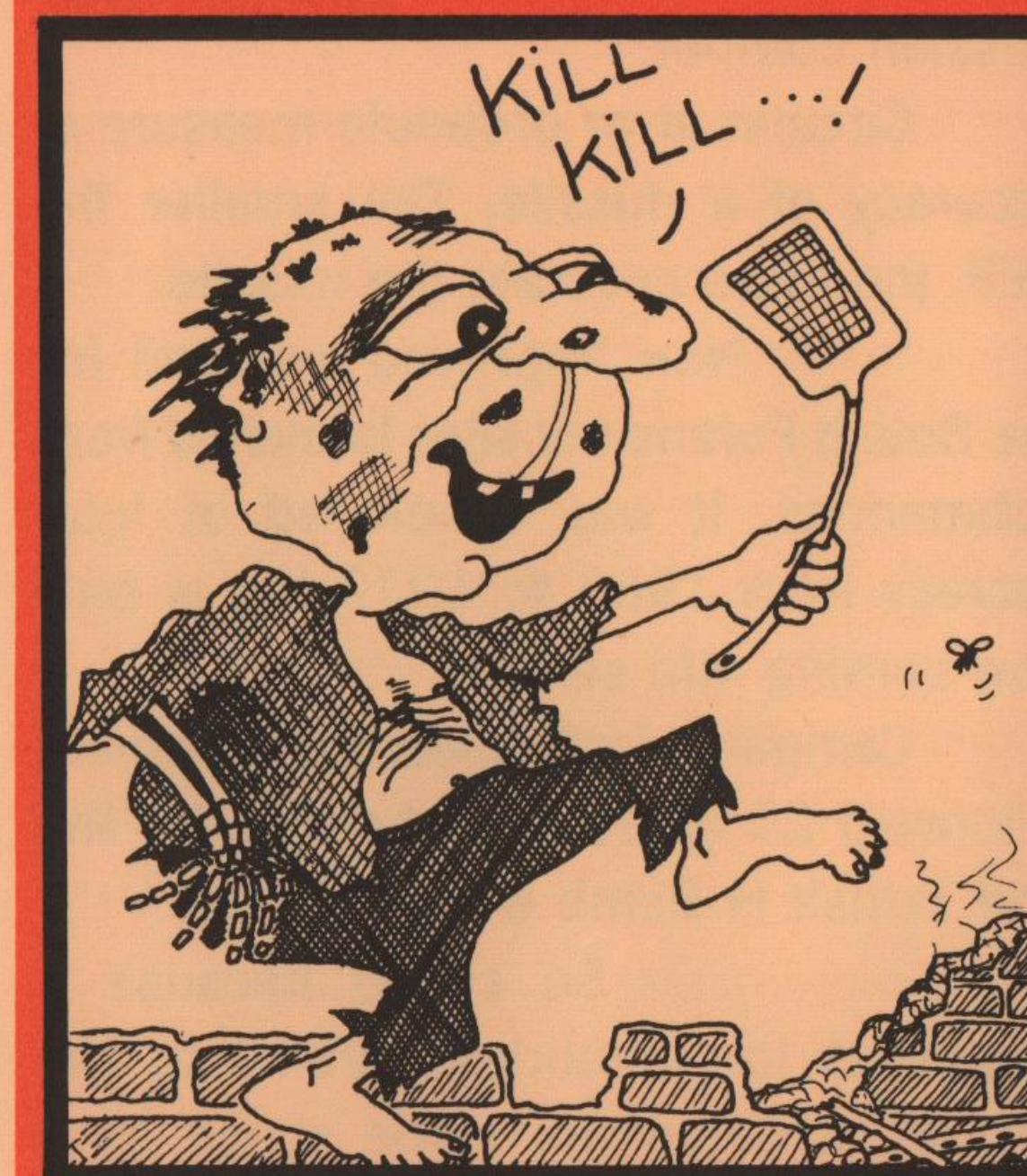
- (v) to campaign for support for these policies among other trade unions who have members concerned with any aspect of civil defence and to work together with "nuclear free" Councils and the peace movement on the issue.
- (vi) to initiate a campaign for increased public authority provision for dealing with civil emergencies in peace time."

The following motion, referred by the 1983 NALGO Conference, has been supported by the National Executive Council:

"Conference notes that local authorities are statutorily bound to undertake civil defence planning, under the Civil Defence Act 1948 and subsequent subordinate legislation. It also confirms that NALGO policy is to support any member who refuses to take part in any associated training, on the grounds of conscience.

It further declares that the union will also support those of its members who, equally on grounds of conscience, are prepared to undertake training in the humanitarian tasks which are the statutory duties of local authorities in maintenance of public duties and the operation of control centres for emergency relief measures in major civil disasters and in the event of war."

Britain has one of the lowest standards of living and the highest unemployment rates in the EEC.



"A most valuable service which everyone could render would be control of flies by means such as fly-sprays and vigorous swatting campaigns."
 Department of Health and Social Security guidance notes on preventing infection in a nuclear war.

The A to Z of Nukespeak

Atom bomb: First, less powerful fission based type of nuclear weapon. It was used on Hiroshima.

Airburst: Nuclear Weapon detonated in the sky to give maximum blast damage.

ABM: Anti-Ballistic Missile, intended to destroy incoming enemy missiles.

ALCM: Air launched cruise missile – U.S. missile launched from bombers which has an accuracy of less than 100 yards after a flight of 1,500 miles.

Ballistic missile: Rocket powered missile which hits its target by falling back to earth under gravity like any object thrown into the air.

Backfire: Most up-to-date, long-range Russian bomber.

CEP: Circular error probable-measure of accuracy of a missile. The smaller the CEP, the more accurate the missile.

Chevaline: New improved warhead for the British Polaris missiles launched from submarines. It was developed in total secrecy from 1968 to 1979 but is only now coming into service.

CND: Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament – formed 25 years ago shortly after the first British H Bomb was exploded.

Cruise missile: So called because it travels at low altitudes parallel to the ground at about the same speed as a plane. Can be launched from the ground (GLCM'S) or from a bomber (ALCM'S).

Deterrence: Preventing an attack by threatening to launch an even worse counter-attack.

ECOROPA: An independent, non-profit

making, non political, European organisation concerned about survival and nuclear disarmament.

EMP: Electro Magnetic Pulse – short burst of intense radio waves given out on detonation of the bomb which can knock-out electronic equipment.

Eurostrategic weapons: Medium-range weapons based in and intended to be used in Europe. Also known as "Intermediate" or "Theatre" Weapons.

Fall-out: Small particles of debris sucked up in the mushroom cloud which become contaminated and fall back to earth as radio-active dust.

Flexible response: NATO military strategy of possibly using nuclear weapons to repulse an overwhelming conventional military attack.

Fire-ball: An intensely hot, expanding ball of fire formed within seconds of detonation of the bomb.

Fire zone: An area liable to spontaneous fires caused by the intense heat after detonation of the bomb.

First-strike: Usually used to refer to a pre-emptive attack on an opponent's missiles while they are still in their silos. The recent development of more sophisticated and accurate weapons has made a first-strike attack, more feasible.

First-strike capability: Having missiles accurate enough to destroy enemy missile silos, and so prevent retaliation. Breaks down the idea of deterrence.

First-degree burns: Reddening of the skin.

Fission: Splitting of heavy atoms such as uranium or plutonium to release the powerful force of an atomic bomb.

Fusion: Combination of light atoms such

PHOTO: HENRY GRANT



as tritium or deuterium to release the more powerful force of a hydrogen bomb.

Gamma radiation: Deadly, high energy rays released on detonation of a nuclear weapon.

Groundburst: Nuclear weapon detonated at or near ground level to create maximum fall-out.

GLCM: Ground-launched cruise missile. The U.S.A. is installing 464 in Europe including 160 in Britain (the first 96 are going to Greenham).

Hydrogen bomb: Second, very powerful fusion-based, thermonuclear bomb.

Hard Rock: The name given to the Government's 1982 civil defence exercise for nuclear war which was cancelled after opposition by some local authorities.

Half life: Time taken for 50% of radioactive atoms to decay.

ICBM: Inter-continental Ballistic Missile with a range of up to 9,000 miles.

IRBM: Intermediate range Ballistic Missile

The march back from Aldermaston – early days of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Adequate food, water, education, health and housing could be provided for everyone in the world for a year with the world's fortnightly arms budget.

with a range of up to 2,500 miles.

KT: Kiloton equivalent to 1,000 tons of the high explosive TNT.

Launch on warning: An immediate nuclear response to a perceived nuclear attack.

LD50: A lethal dose of radiation which would kill 50% of healthy adults. About 400 to 500 Rads over 2 days.

MCANW: Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons. Independent organisation of doctors and medical staff.

MT: Megaton equivalent to 1,000,000 tons of the high explosive TNT.

MIRV: Multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles. Missiles with several warheads for different targets.

MX: New long range, highly accurate U.S. Missile, each armed with 10 warheads.

Multilateral Disarmament: An agreement by all nuclear powers to reduce or abandon nuclear weapons.

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation – formed by the Western Powers in 1949. The military head is always an American general.

Over-pressure: The force of the blast caused by a nuclear explosion, usually expressed in lbs. per sq. inch.

Platform: Any structure from which nuclear weapons are launched. Could be a silo, vehicle, plane or submarine.

Polaris: British submarine-launched missiles.

Poseidon: American submarine-launched missiles.

Pershing II: New, very accurate, medium range (1000 miles) American ground launched ballistic missile soon to be deployed in Europe.

PF: Protection Factor – theoretical measure-

ment of the protection offered by a building from radiation.

Proliferation: The increase and the spread of nuclear weapons amongst the nations of the world.

Rad: Unit of measurement for radiation absorbed by body.

Radiation: See Gamma Radiation.

Radio-active: Giving off harmful nuclear radiation – gamma rays and high energy particles.

Residual radiation: Radiation given off by Fall-Out.

SALT: Strategic arms Limitation Talks – held between US and USSR.

START: President Reagan's new name for SALT talks – Strategic Arms Reduction Talks.

SANA: Scientists Against Nuclear Arms – an independent organisation of scientists.

Second-degree burns: Blistering of the skin.

Second strike capability: Having enough well-protected missiles to enable retaliation after a nuclear attack. Essential for the idea of deterrence.

Square Leg: The name given to the Government's 1980 civil defence exercise for a nuclear attack of 200 megatons on Britain.

SS missiles: Russian surface to surface missiles. Includes long-range missiles such as the SS-18 and the more modern medium-range SS-20 which is aimed at Europe and China.

Strategic weapons: Long-range, inter-continental nuclear weapons.

SLBM'S: Submarine-launched Ballistic Missiles.

Theatre nuclear weapons: Medium-range weapons. Based in and intended to be

used in Europe.

Thermal radiation: The heat flash emitted on detonation of a nuclear weapon.

Thermonuclear weapon: Hydrogen Bomb.

Titan: The largest American missile has a warhead of 9 megatons and a range of 9,300 miles. In 1980 one of these missiles exploded in its silo, throwing the warhead over 200 feet.

Tomahawk: American name for the Ground Launched Cruise Missile.

Third degree burns: Charring of the skin.

Trident II: New American, long-range, more accurate and more destructive submarine-launched missile. Britain is to replace Polaris missiles with Trident II.

Unilateral disarmament: Abandonment of nuclear weapons by one nation without others necessarily doing the same.

UKWMO: United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organisation responsible for detecting a nuclear attack on this country.

Warhead: Nuclear bombs carried by missiles (see MIRV).

Waterburst: Nuclear weapon (usually a depth charge) detonated at sea.

Warsaw Pact: Organisation of 7 eastern European states for "friendship, mutual assistance and co-operation". Russian forces are deployed in all Pact countries except Rumania.

Yield: The destructive power of a nuclear warhead. Measured in kilotons (KT) or megatons (MT).

Zero option: The American version is not to deploy Cruise or Pershing II if the Russians remove all existing SS20's from Europe. The Russian version amounts to no US or Soviet missiles facing each other in Europe.

If you are not a NALGO member and are eligible to join, why not do so? Write for an application form to: The General Secretary, NALGO, 1 Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9AJ.