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All material contained in this document was scanned from a notice circulated by the Directorate's Head of Administration and Finance, Mr Eddie Guy, in 1986 calling for volunteers for administrative duties in the regional government headquarters, which would be activated in England and Wales in an emergency. Although the document was designated as 'Restricted' at the time, it is reproduced for historical purposes as the Civil Defence network was disbanded in later years and the information relating to government wartime planning is believed to be available in whole or part elsewhere on the internet.

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Signed

Steven R. Cole
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Home Office Notice

104/1984

STAFFING OF GOVERNMENT WARTIME ESTABLISHMENTS

1. Further to Home Office Notice 2/1982, Departments have now been asked as part of the Government's Home Defence planning to complete the selection of volunteers for administrative duties in the regional government headquarters which would be activated in England and Wales in an emergency.
2. Letters will be despatched shortly to all officers who volunteered in response to the earlier Home Office Notice but further staff are now required in certain grades. Assistant Secretaries, Principals, SEOs and equivalent grades in other groups and classes are now invited to volunteer.
3. Volunteers will be expected to take part in a limited amount of training amounting to a one day introductory session and a two or three day 'workshop' at the Civil Defence College. Training is due to start in 1985 and will be regarded as official duty.
4. Annex I gives extracts from Home Office Circular ES 2/1984 which sets out the revised arrangements for the continuation of government in a period of tension, conventional attack and after nuclear attack. Copies of the full circular may be obtained from F6 Division.
5. For regional government purposes, England and Wales would be divided into 9 regions. Each region comprises 2 zones, each with its own headquarters, except Region 5 (Greater London) which has just one. Annex II gives a list of the various zone headquarters and the counties which they will serve.
6. Annex III sets out the likely contingency arrangements in respect of salaries and allowances for designated Regional Government staff.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Government has made contingency arrangements at a regional level to provide the necessary communications and leadership in case of war. These take account of the possible eventualities described in Home Office Circular No ES 1/1984 (issued simultaneously with this circular) : a period of increasing international tension; a firm warning period of at most 7 days; conventional attack, including the possible use of chemical weapons; nuclear attack, survival and recovery afterwards; and also take account of the different requirements for control and co-ordination of action before and after a general nuclear attack.

2. The arrangements rely on resort, for as long as practical, to regional emergency committees (RECs) acting under continuing central government direction. When the scale of any attack made it necessary arrangements for the devolution of government to regions, each under a Government minister as regional commissioner, would be activated. The extent to which these various arrangements need to be invoked throughout the country, and their duration, would depend on the pattern and scale of attack and its effects.

WARTIME REGIONAL GOVERNMENTComposition and powers

9. In the event of a nuclear attack the powers of central government, if it could not operate, would devolve on a regional commissioner within each of 11 home defence regions covering the United Kingdom (see attached map). The regional commissioner would be a Government minister who would be supported by another minister and by officials and other people with relevant skills and experience. The commissioner would have full authority to govern internally, his authority being derived from emergency powers approved by Parliament during a war emergency. This form of government would continue only as long as central government could not function. As communications in the country were restored, (and it is impossible to predict in advance how long that might take) central government could begin to take back control. The regional commissioner would then, perhaps progressively, lose his devolved powers and regional government would operate as an arm of central government in the same way as in a period of tension and conventional war. Some parts of the country might not be as seriously affected as other parts and an individual regional commissioner would assume the full powers available to him only if, and only for so long as, necessary.

Functions

10. The function of the commissioner and his staff would be to co-ordinate survival and recovery operations. They would have assembled before a nuclear attack, but would have no pre-attack executive functions. During the immediate post-attack period their tasks would include:-

- a. co-ordination of arrangements for maintaining or restoring essential supplies and services, including the allocation of food, energy and other vital resources, resolving conflicting demands for resources, and acting as a channel of communications between different surviving agencies and organisations;

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- b. provision of information and guidance to the general public through the wartime broadcasting system, local authorities, and regional arrangements;
- c. determining priorities between local authorities and other bodies;
- d. the allocation of assistance from the armed forces taking account of any continuing military commitments;
- e. the maintenance of public order and the administration of justice; and
- f. the fixing of any agricultural and industrial priorities.

The assessment of local priorities and mutual aid arrangements, operational deployment and the conduct of day-to-day affairs would be left to the local authorities. Later regional government could concentrate on action directed to the continued survival and recovery of the region possibly under central government direction.

Operation

11. A single level of regional government would be provided. Each region would be divided into two zones (covering the same areas as the old sub-regions), except for Greater London and Northern Ireland which have only one (see annex A). The regional commissioner would have his headquarters in one zone with dedicated communications to local authorities and others. Located with him would be a senior member of the judiciary responsible for co-ordinating surviving judicial resources for the administration of justice. In the other zone another minister appointed as deputy regional commissioner would be in charge of a second headquarters and would be able to co-ordinate operations under the direction of the regional commissioner or independently if communications had been lost. There would be a small reserve team in each region able to take over from either or both the other teams should they be unable to operate. When circumstances and communications permitted, the commissioner would be able to co-ordinate operations over the whole region.

12. The regional commissioner and his deputy would each be supported by a staff of about 120 drawn from public services and Government departments (see annex C). Many of the organisations in the region would continue with any emergency organisation and arrangements activated in a period of tension or conventional attack (see paragraph 6) or activate those designed for the circumstances after a general nuclear attack. As in the case of the REC, contact would be maintained through the representative within regional government.

13. The chief constable would at all times, as in peacetime, be responsible for the maintenance of law and order and all other police functions in his force area. He would remain in full operational control of his own forces and of any police support units from other areas which may have been sent to their aid; and would be responsible, through his regional police commander, to the regional commissioner.

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ANNEX II TO HOME OFFICE NOTICE

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REGION	ZONE HQs	COUNTIES SERVED
2. North	2.1	North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire South Yorkshire, Humberside
	2.2	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Durham, Cleveland
3. East Midlands	3.1	Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire Lincolnshire
	3.2	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire
4. East	4.1	Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire
	4.2	Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex
5. Greater London	5.1	Greater London
6. South East	6.1	Surrey, Kent, East Sussex West Sussex
	6.2	Isle of Wight, Hampshire Berkshire, Oxfordshire Buckinghamshire
7. South West	7.1	Dorset, Somerset, Avon Gloucestershire, Wiltshire
	7.2	Devon, Cornwall
8. Wales	8.1	Clwyd, Gwynedd
	8.2	Dyfed, Powys, Gwent, Mid Glamorgan South Glamorgan, West Glamorgan
9. West Midlands	9.1	Staffordshire, West Midlands Warwickshire
	9.2	Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester
10. North West	10.1	Cumbria, Lancashire
	10.2	Merseyside, Greater Manchester Cheshire

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ANNEX III TO HOME OFFICE NOTICE 104/1984

PROPOSED CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES FOR REGIONAL GOVERNMENT STAFF

1. The length of stay at the wartime headquarters cannot be foreseen, but it might be for several weeks. Staff at zone headquarters will be provided with food and accommodation there. Staff in reserve teams, if located in hotels, will be responsible for paying their own bills and will be eligible for night subsistence allowance at the full rate applicable to their grade for as long as they are required to remain at these locations. Imprests can be provided to cover travelling and subsistence expenses and, if requested, arrangements will be made for the payment of part of wages or salary direct to an officer's wife or adult dependant(s) as soon as he is required to report for duty.
2. Unless the officer's home is within 20 miles of his wartime station, he may, if he wishes, move his wife and children, and any adult dependants, at public expense to a hotel or other temporary accommodation of his choice in the vicinity. This move could take place any time after the receipt of joining instructions. Travelling expenses and night subsistence at the normal rate applicable to his grade will be payable for his wife and any dependant(s) aged 16 or over, and half that amount for each child under 16. Subsistence allowances would be payable at those rates for as long as it was necessary for the family to remain in temporary accommodation near the wartime station. An imprest would be arranged to cover the family's travelling and subsistence expenses for the first 14 days.

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