



"Ah, constable! Did you bring in the chickens I ordered?"  
*W Highland Free Press*  
 18/4/86  
**"No plans" for rural areas after nuclear attack**

The Scottish Office denied this week that special plans exist for controlling rural areas in the event of a nuclear attack.

The 'Guardian' newspaper last week reported on the existence of a document south of the border in which detailed arrangements for the post-nuclear period were laid down, in respect of an unnamed village of 1,800 people.

The newspaper reported: "They include lists of civilians licensed to carry guns who could control law and order in the absence of police.

"Towns and villages away from likely nuclear targets will be forced to take refugees by law, but once the required number has been reached barricades will be allowed to be erected to keep more out."

The plan, said the 'Guardian', suggested the recruitment of 50 special constables to keep order "in addition to an existing list of licensed gun holders will form the volunteer force of armed men to control looting"

The aim of the 100-page plan was

"to keep the community going for several months without any outside help". Among the advice given in it is that "chickens have good resistance to radiation and their coops should be brought into the house with enough food and water for 14 days".

The plan acknowledged that the locally-raised police force would have to enforce "unpopular" decisions such as rationing and imprisoning malcontents.

The Home Office told the *Free Press* that they had seen the report but denied that such a plan had been prepared at central government level. They assumed that it had been drawn up by a local authority's emergency planning officer, in respect of a specific community.

A Scottish Office spokesman said: "We never have issued anything like this, nor do we have any plans to do so. Emergency planning guidance was issued to the local authorities last summer but there were no detailed plans for controlling the population in rural areas."

**Democrat leader hits back at Tory attack**  
 HAN AD  
 27-9-85  
 Duncan Campbell Secret Law

The head of the Hamilton Social Democrats has angrily rejected calls by local Conservatives for his resignation or removal.

Hamilton SDP chairman, Mr John Clarke, last week infuriated Hamilton Conservatives by issuing a statement that alleged plans Mrs Thatcher's government were making for times of emergency smacked of the measures used in Nazi Germany.

A Conservative spokesman said in last week's *Advertiser* that Mr Clarke's statement was "over the top" and called for his removal as chairman.

However, Mr Clarke returned fire this week by saying: "I do wish the Conservatives had considered more fully what I said in my speech. I did not say

that the Conservatives were Nazis. I did, however, say that the alleged proposals, which have been well publicised by the national media, would be far too reminiscent of Nazi tactics to be acceptable to the British public and that would apply irrespective of which party might propose them; but I might propose them, be it the Conservatives, Labour, Liberals or SDP.

"I also called on the Conservatives to quiet any public unease which these reports may cause by categorically denying the existence of such proposals. I note that no such denial has been forthcoming from the Conservatives."

"I also called on Mrs Thatcher to invite leaders of the opposition parties to join discussions on whatever contingency plans do exist for use in a national emergency and further to consult Parliament and seek its approval for these proposals which could openly be brought to the Commons without endangering national security.

"In this way, the citizens of this country can be assured that any plans which do exist have been reached through consensus and do indeed exclude proposals such as those alleged by the media to exist. Then they might be easily dismissed as 'fantiful conjecture'.

"Regrettably, the Conservatives have failed to address their attention to this part of the comments I made and have instead tried to divert the public's attention from these matters by launching a personal attack on me. The public must decide for themselves why the Conservatives would choose to do so.

"As to their calls for my resignation, I can only suggest that if they wish to influence the Social Democratic Party in this respect they would have to change their political allegiance and join our party. Then they will indeed be able to have the democratic right to select or reject any candidate for the chairmanship or indeed for the party leadership. I am sure they would find the exercise of such democratic rights novel, educative and highly refreshing in the light of their past political experience.

"It is remarkable that a political party should seek to influence another political party with regard to the continuance in office of its democratically elected chairman. Perhaps this is how Mrs Thatcher's followers would prefer to see the leaders of their political opponents selected and rejected, but it would hardly be in the interests of democracy or political freedom.

The Hamilton Conservatives were, however, unrepentant this week and renewed calls for Mr Clarke's removal.

Their spokesman said: "We are delighted to see that the local SDP chairman is trying to back down from his original outrageous allegations. However, his retraction does not go far enough and we call on the SDP to fully disassociate themselves from the original statement.

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