

# Commons quiz on nuclear bunkers

REVEALED: THE SCOTTISH OFFICE'S SECRET WAR BUNKERS

## Rifkind gets two new nuclear HQs

EXCLUSIVE

by CALLUM MACHAN

THE Government is building two huge, multi-million pound nuclear bunkers in Scotland to operate as emergency centres of government in the event of war. The 'zone headquarters' will each be able to accommodate between 180 and 200 personnel, including Ministers.



Last week's *Observer Scotland* exclusive on the new bunkers

SHADOW Defence spokesman Mr Martin O'Neill is to raise questions in parliament about the construction of two massive, multi-million pound nuclear bunkers in Scotland.

Last week, *Observer Scotland* revealed that the centres, known as Civil Defence 'Zone Headquarters', are being built at Cultybraggan army training camp near Comrie, Perthshire, and in the grounds of Peel Hospital near Galashiels. The bunkers, each able to accommodate between 180 and 200 personnel, including the Secretary of State for Scotland and senior Ministers, are to replace the current North and South Zone HQs in Anstruther and Kirknewton. They will operate as emergency centres of government in the event of war.

Mr O'Neill said he wants to know why the administrative HQs are being moved and how much the new bunkers will cost. He said he will also be asking if Scottish Secretary

Malcom Rifkind had any consultations with the United States government on the matter and if the Ministry of Defence had had any involvement in the plans.

Last week, defence journalist Mr Duncan Campbell described it as 'almost inconceivable' that the current Southern Zone HQ was being moved from Kirknewton for reasons of strategic danger or because it was out of date. He suggested that 'the only reason' could be because 'somebody else' — possibly Nato — wanted it for some other purpose.

Meanwhile, Mr Ian Davison, General Secretary of the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, yesterday criticised the expenditure on the bunkers, and said the government couldn't have it two ways. They were denying that they had any alternative plans for the Kirknewton facility — 'but if they genuinely don't have an alternative use, then it is a notable misuse of public resources,' he said.

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