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AS Britain's nuclear strike capability is boosted to record levels with the advent of Trident, bunkers designed to protect key Scottish politicians and officials from blast and fallout are being sold off as surplus to requirements.

They include a giant bunker at Kirknewton, near Edinburgh, designed to shelter the Scottish secretary from the holocaust, and another large bunker at Anstruther in Fife,

**by Jim Cruickshank**

built as an emergency seat of regional government. Both have found potential buyers.

Still up for sale are 230 small post-blast monitoring bunkers linked to bigger underground nerve-centres in Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness and Prestwick.

A home office spokesman said: "The end of the Cold

War has made nuclear bunkers excess to requirements."

The spacious, three-tier bunkers at Kirknewton and Anstruther, built in the 1950s, were purchased last week by anonymous buyers, but have not yet been handed over.

A further large bunker in Comrie, Perthshire, is being retained, for unexplained "defence reasons".

Both the Kirknewton and Anstruther bunkers have dor-

mitories, conference and communications rooms, enabling political leaders and top military personnel to continue with their business during and after an attack. The 23,000sq ft bombshelter at Troy Wood, near Anstruther, appears to be a typical small Scottish country home from the outside, while all that can be seen of the 45-room bunker at Kirknewton is a small apartment. In both bunkers

there are secret trapdoors and tunnels that lead to luxurious surroundings about 100ft underground.

Veronica McCourt, spokesman for Grimley JR Eve, the Edinburgh property consultants who are handling the sale of the larger bunkers, said several people had shown an interest. "Some people want to live in them. Another is being earmarked as a museum. One person even

wanted to use one of them as a tropical fish tank," she said. "We have been instructed not to release any information on the potential buyers or the price but they are being sold for more than £30,000 each."

The medium-sized operational nerve-centres comprise a 4,000sq ft bunker in Craigiebarns, Dundee, a 6,000sq ft bunker in King Duncan Road, Inverness, and two 2,500sq ft bunkers discreetly tucked

away in Quarry Road, Aberdeen, and Waterloo Road, Prestwick.

PSA Building Management, who are handling the sale of the medium and small bunkers, are looking at any potential planning approvals so that their sites can be developed before going to the open market in March.

John Ennis, of PSA in Glasgow, said the sale of the 230 small, two-man observation

bunkers was being negotiated with the leaseholders.

A Scottish spokesman for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament said: "The government has finally recognised that civil defence against nuclear war is a nonsense and it is selling off its bunkers.

"Why, then, does it carry on with its insane pursuit of superpower status and the proliferation of Trident?"