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LIVING 'WOULD ENVY THE DEAD'

By HELEN LENNOX

Eighty-six per cent. of the population in Strathclyde would die immediately if there were a nuclear attack on West-Central Scotland.

This was explained in horrifying detail at a conference in Glasgow today.

And survivors would face an almost impossible task. Burns, exposure, radiation, sickness, and lack of food would kill them slowly and painfully within days or weeks, it was stated.

Professor Paul Ehrlich, a world authority on the effects of a nuclear attack said: "The survivors of an attack would envy the dead. They would simply die gradually rather than immediately."

The conference was told that Scotland — and Strathclyde in particular — would be in the front

Nuclear attack nightmare

line of any war between the super-powers.

Scotland has 200 potential targets, and strategic sites such as submarine bases on the Holy Loch would be "time urgent" targets for Russia or attacking enemy.

CHEMICAL

Professor John Erickson, from the University of Edinburgh, outlined the likely pattern of a nuclear attack on West-Central Scotland in the event of war.

The idea of a 24-hour nuclear blitz would be naive he thought. "This would be a war that went on for several months. I believe it would become a war of attrition."

He forecast a land, sea and air attack, with nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons used.

He said: "Ten years ago, American experts put the likelihood of war at 100-1. Today the chances are 10-1."

Professor Erickson said that the initial attack on Strathclyde would be against the submarine bases, the airports — Glasgow and

Prestwick, and selected industrial targets.

Up to 86% of the population would die in the immediate attack from blast.

Thereafter would be a fairly sustained period of bombing, using nuclear, chemical, and conventional weaponry.

The nightmare facing survivors would bring only death. They would find most people dead, no communications and no transport.

In Scotland as a whole 60 to 70% would die immediately.

Professor Paul Ehrlich from Stamford University, California, then spoke of the horrors of nuclear winter which survivors would face.

The sun would be blotted out and they would live in a twilight world.

No crops would grow in the new darkness, and the survivors would face severe winter conditions.

Water would become polluted, toxic gases would poison the atmosphere, and fallout from the bombs would continue.



Professor John Erickson:
Nightmare for the survivors