Though he would have a team of advisers, staff officers and clerical people — some 90 in all — the Controller will have supreme decision-making powers over every aspect of life in the Region.

Only in one area are his powers limited. The police forces and armed forces will be answerable unlimately to Zone and Central. In the event of the Region being completely isolated, however, it seems likely the Chief Constable would take direct orders from the Controller.

But visions of an autocratic Controller and a handful of privileged people riding out the disaster, safe in a deep bunker are way off the

There is no secret list of people with keys to the executive bunker. Neither are there blast-proof bunkers for Regional administrators.

There is a list of jobs—in transport, health and communications—which will lead certain people being asked to man the Regional HQ (or the standby HQ). An emergency management team will be formed with Controller, Deputy, Heads of Services, Chief Constable and Regional Scientific Adviser.

These are the men with key positions who will have to say goodbye to their families and join the HQ team not knowing if they will ever see them again.

than executive.

name is secret

Most are local government officials. Few elected members are included except designated members of the emergency com-

city supplies And their "bunker" is designed not to survive a direct blast but to keep its occupants alive through a sustained period of heavy fallout. In essence it is a large suite of basement rooms with independent air, water and electri

From there the Controller and his team will co-ordinate feeding survivors, caring for inured, burying the dead, and most important of all perhaps, monitoring fallout levels.

Using radio stations at unspecified sites in the Region, the Regional Control will be able to broadcast fallout warnings to the whole popula-

Sector areas, very specific instructions could be given to people about how long they might go outside during fallout periods. With a Region sub-divided into District and

A broadcast might be along these lines, "ATTENTION ABERDEEN DISTRICT, ATTENTION ABERDEEN DISTRICT, ALL OF ABERDEEN DISTRICT SWITHIN THE FALLOUT A BAND YOU MAY SPEND NOT MORE THAN ONE HOUR PER DAY IN THE OPEN."

Home Office guidance suggests that even in the worst affected areas as many as 60% of the population would survive blast and fire. So the fallout warning will be critical in helping the Region through the post-attack phase with minimum loss of life.

Most central government doomwatchers believe that nuclear war is the biggest reason to prepare such Home Defence plans. Chemical weapons, and maybe biological weapons, might be used against vital civil and military targets but as a general weapon, they are unlikely to be

So fallout remains the biggest single danger facing Grampian's population in the aftermath of a nuclear war. The other three horsemen of this apocalypse are, of course, famine caused by peisoned crops, epidemics and rioting.

## man planning for Armageddon

ANDREW HENDERSON spends his working life thinking about the

For Mir Henderson is one of a select profession: the men paid to imagine and plan for the worst things that could happen in the worst of all possible worlds. 

And those nightmares can be nasty. They range from a trident jet crashing on Northfield on take-off from Dyes, through a tanker load of poisonous chemicals crashing in Union Street, to all-out thermonuclear war. Paid mainly by central government, he is government, he is Grampian's doomwetcher, the man who plans for disaster on behalf of Grampian's 400,000 population. The man who has nightmares on our behalf If you make your plans too rigid, he says, this can be countier-producitive in a resi-file situation. The kind of major hocident envisaged includes dangerous chemical spillages, air creatives and fire or explosion associated with oil and date measuring.

But all his emergency planning works on a basic assumption: never say a diseaser sell mayor have been a diseaser sell helpen, but we admit a factor with an agument he applies too to the most a ombre part of his job, keeping an updated plan for responding to a nuclear war this in known as tubear war.

"Bet I plough a lonely furrough," says an Findcody says an Handstrawn." I all have Hendstrawn. I all have puffing sent. I all have wonder if the people around wonder if the rod only wond. In facil must be wondering just how to ansure every family gets if days food in the event of a nuclear wear.

And he does more than

The Plan, some 1000 pages

wonder. In the three years alone he joined Grampian Ragion he has perpared a masake number of amender alone the result of the same and the same plan, which merchally has never yet been needed in Grampian.

The plan details exactly how, who, when, why the Region's resources would be thrown into assisting the police with a major incident. The ence of the plan is the response, since ording to Mr Henderson ister by definition is redictable.

oil and gas operations.

A series of appendices, running from A to 2, identify the functions of each throatment of local government in the event of wer. Their roles and their picc in the emergency structure of government are spelled out in fine detail. Each appendix is constantly updated to take account of changes in equipment,

in all, covers every single aspect of a nuclear was examino inaciar as it might effect the flegion's between the flegion's population. Its airt, above all, is to "Ensure as far as possible the survival of the Grampian Region and its unbehinnts in a war emergency." example, every single fran needed for the main Operations Room is listed even down to pencil sharpeners and coloured chair staffing, clc. its thoroughness is very impressive, if at times weirdly mundane. For

And of course most tolk do regard the subject as tableo, unthinkable, something you'd prefer someone else to worry about. And all the parts of The Pan are "restricted" and "confidential," a feature which explains perhaps thy the public have so little idea how efficently the Region could respond to war.

3 Though he tells people he spent the war "doing civil engineering work for the Japanese, building bridges and so on," what he means is he was a PQW forced labourer on the notorious Chanterians. understand why. He knew the Bridge on the River Kwal first hand, survived three years on 12 That's clearly not Mr Henderson's view. And when he explains his wartime ntul of meion every

Which helped to give him a slightly different perspective on the atomic bomb. He was at Bangkok railway station, a POW in transit, when the first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

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After the war, a spell in Malaya during the Emergency, and then more than the years as a Civil Defence organiser in Aberdeen until the Corps was disbanded at the end of the Cold War in 1968. "We were very grateful when the bomb was dropped because we were convinced that if Mournbatten invaded, we would all have been shot out of hand," he says.

they just wanted to be able to help."

"Then we might have a nucleus of people trained for such possible events, just as the air raid wardens were during the last war. Things have changed though. "It sodd that when Civil Defence was in its heyday, the Fifties and early Sixtes, no one looked eakance at it, no one said you would irritate a potential enemy being so well prepared." "Some people feel we should be more involved in making situation, especially at a ower level," he says.

He cites Switzerland and Sweden, both neutral through the last two world wers, as examples of nations with probably the most advanced Civil Defence programmes in the world, especially in terms of deep shelters.

"My personal view," he says,
"is that people should be
a ware of the potential
dangers because in that way
they can help to protect the
population."

However, with Civil Defence now disbanded ten years past, public awareness of the threat — and the elaborate countermessures possible by central and local government — la probably at its lowest ever.

So Andrew Henderson will go on thinking out nightmares on our behalf.

Today the CD is long gone, a fact he clearly regrets.

A light wind gives rescuers in Aberdeen some one-and-a-half hours work in the open before fallout warning maroons

Normality slowly returns over succeeding weeks. Total dislocation of industry and energy networks hampers economic recovery, but general morale is high due to Grampian's successful use of Home Defence plans. Total deaths at three months amount to less than 10% of the population.

and Polar regions, the con the Region's target value

Day One. The MOD. Cabinet and Chiefs of Staff in London make Strategic decision to go to red alert. Coded messages tell Grampian Region to begin implementing its Home Defence Plan. All leave for police and armed forces is cancelled. Staff are reminded of their obligations under the Official Secrets Act.

Day Seven. Cabinet, advised by Chiefs of Staff decides that over preparations can be made. Intelligence estimates suggest probability of attack within 10 days, Grampian postmen deliver one copy of "Protect and Survive" booklet to every household.

Day Eight. Caravan dwellers are advised to move in with relatives in solid houses. All food warehouses, oil depots, and other useful resources are commandeered. Police now guarding key installations and Special Branch making daily arrests of political activists and "suspect" persons.

TOTAL DESIGNATION OF THE SECOND

Day Eleven. Only essential workers continue to clock in Factories, offices, tower blocks have been earth-bagged and windows whitewashed (to reflect light blast and reduce fits risks). The Controller's emergency management team now meeting three times in every 24 hours. BBC radio and The broadcasting constant stream of public service advice of avoiding failout, protecting homes, etc.

Day Twelve. At 115 p.m., BBC advises anyone within 10 mindes wask of heir home to return home. Office and other workers more into basements or central standbagged areas of their buildings, At AS pm. a sustained brilliaint flash lights workers more in a based on a basel wor milliaint flash lights up a dull are in Aberdeen, about two milliaint flash lights was this the city, destroying Salvesen Tower. Si Nicholass was a bits the city, destroying Salvesen Tower. Si Nicholass was a bits the city, destroying Salvesen Tower. Si Nicholass was a bits the city, destroying Salvesen Tower. Si Nicholass was a bits the city, destroying Salvesen Tower.

In the Control Room, teams of rescue workers are co-ordinated to help survivors from rubble. Initial intelligence reports suggest a funegation bomb has been exploded in the vicinity of Peterhead and Crimond Hill.

A second blast targeted on Edzell, has been miligated by the Grampian footbills and done little more than blind a few Royal Observer Corps personnel at Stonehaven. All radio and telephone links with Peterhead have been cut, but continuing rumbles suggest St Fergus terminal is still detonating.

Intermittent communication with Zone Control eventually confirms that no second strike is expected and that fallout remains the major threat. Edinburgh says that destruction of Moscow and Pekin, Washington and London has been almost

In successive days Grampian population stays put, though the Army is forced to open fire on large numbers of retugees moving northwards from Edinburgh, Fallout deaths in the region, after 10 days, are only 5700, although about the same number are hospitalised with severe radiation stokness and

So countdown to disaster might go like this

Day Two. Stockpiles of the Government's warning booklet are moved to stores in the North-east, ready for distribution. Key representatives of vital industry are warned their services may be needed in the Regional Control. In London civil servants draft emergency legislation ready for approval by the Home Secretary.

Day Three. Food supplies, water, batteries and fuel oil are moved into the two Regional Control centres and also to the protected accommodation in District controls.

Day Four, Five, Six. Preparations continue and practice sessions of fallout monitoring are carried out. The local Press have been advised of an embargo on any stories about

Day Nine. Long queues form at approved food centres where families are issued with supplies for 14 days. All luxuries — tobacco, spirits, etc. — commandeered to provide barter currency in post attack phase.

Day Ten. Non-argent hospital cases removed to their homes. In Union Street, police bason charge a crowd which refuses to disperse. All schools in the region are closed to provide feeding centres.