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CIVIL DEFENCE COMMITTEE
WORKING PARTY ON WARNINGS

Note by Senior Civil Defence
Advisor

1. The Composition and Terms of Reference of the above Working Party were issued in document AC/23(CD)D/112 dated 29th July 1955. In order to assist members the following notes have been prepared containing suggestions as to the way in which the two problems concerned might be considered when the Working Party meets. These suggestions do not pretend to be comprehensive.

(a) Warning of hostile air attack

2. The whole object of a warning system is to give the longest possible warning so that the population can be got into shelter under cover or well dispersed. The points raised below are all directed to this end as well as to ensuring that a warning is received.

- (i) To what extent are present national arrangements considered adequate against attacks by aircraft?
- (ii) Could any of the national systems be improved (i.e. the warning time extended) by closer international co-operation? If so what are the requirements?
- (iii) Are the present audible signals considered satisfactory or are there any suggestions for improvement?
- (iv) Is it desirable and practicable to standardize the actual warning and all-clear signals amongst European NATO countries? If so what should these signals be?
- (v) Is it considered that the present warning arrangements would be effective against weapons such as the flying bombs, rockets or guided missiles? If not are there any suggestions as to how warnings of the approach of these weapons could be obtained?
- (vi) In the event of the existing warning arrangements being disrupted by air attack, e.g. a destruction of sirens, electric power supplies, etc., what local and national alternatives are recommended, including the use of broadcasting?

- (vii) In view of the damage likely to be caused by thermo-nuclear attack is it considered that the present system of using sirens is one of date? If so should entire reliance be placed on broadcasting, subject to safeguards against assisting hostile aircraft to "home", e.g. the USA Conelrad system?
- (viii) If the use of broadcasting is "recommended, either as a supplement as (vide (vi)) or in substitution of sirens (vide (vii))", what arrangements will be required to enable the stations concerned to receive the warning and what form should the warning then take?

(b) Warning of Fall Out

3. Each member of the Alliance will be responsible for issuing a national fall-out warning. Since, however, this is a new and complicated problem, an exchange of national ideas will be helpful.

4. There is, in addition, the international aspect of this question and the importance of members of the Alliance passing on warnings is of obvious importance.

5. As with the warning of the approach of hostile aircraft, the time factor is of paramount importance to enable the population, domestic animals, etc. to be got under cover or moved out of the area in time. The following points are suggested for discussion.

- (i) The importance of meteorological reports, especially of the wind direction, is very great. Apart from national arrangements, in which an exchange of views would be helpful, are there any international arrangements which would be useful. If so what organization would be required and to what extent could any existing organization be utilized?
- (ii) What form should a fall-out warning take? Can the existing warning against aircraft organization be used? Will the signals be the same? If not what signals are recommended? To what extent should the warning be national and to what extent local? How will local warnings be converged?
- (iii) What instructions should be issued to the public as to their action on receipt of a fall-out warning?
- (iv) What steps will it be necessary to take to establish the degree of contamination; and especially when the area is considered to be safe for movement again will the all-clear be given to the public?
- (v) Since the up-wind area is of vital importance to Civil Defence operations are any special warning or all-clear arrangements necessary for this area? If so what is recommended?

- (vi) In regard to the passing of fall-out warnings between members of the Alliance, what arrangements are recommended? Should such warnings be passed direct or through some international office such as NATO?
- (vii) What information is required to be passed between Member Countries?

6. The United States and Canada have been asked to supply information to the Working Party (vide (c) of AC/23(CD)D/112). On receipt it will be circulated to members, and the recommendations of the Working Group will be passed on to these two countries.

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