

In spite of its academic rigour and numerous references, the book remains very readable, almost enthralling. It will certainly restore hope—without giving any illusions—to all those who are strongly attached to the idea of the supremacy of law in world affairs but who feel somewhat disoriented in the face of reality. Consequently, we cannot but regret the fact that, since the book has been published only in Italian, it will have only a limited circle of readers. Given its subject matter and the way it has been dealt with, Professor Cassese's book would certainly merit being translated into other languages.

Marco Sassòli

LONDON UNDER ATTACK *

Five scenarios of destruction

Neither the government nor strategists consider an attack on England to be probable within the next decade. The possibility, however, is not zero. Based on this assumption and on the obligation for cities to plan their own civil defence and preparedness, the authorities of Greater London established a high-level, independent Commission of six experts to study all the facets of the problem on a multi-million community and to report on what would happen to the capital, to its houses, inhabitants, roads, hospitals, airports, food supply, services, water, climate... How would the ordinary Londoner—parent, teacher, manual worker, doctor, nurse, fireman, government official or young banker react to nuclear attack or to the threat of such an attack?

The outcome is a gigantic study of 33 separate volumes of research and investigation carried out for the Greater London Area War Risk Study (GLAWARS) Commission, conveniently brought together in some 400 pages in the book *London under attack* which, despite the terrifying findings and the plethora of charts and statistics, makes eminently easy, intelligible reading.

The depth and breadth of the Report go far beyond any investigation previously available to any official body, country or organization, and the findings are applicable to any major city or large population in the world. Also, comparative analogies and differences in the planning and philosophy of civil defence in different countries are most instructive and add to the wider relevance of the book.

* *London under attack. Report of the Greater London Area War Risk Study Commission.* By R. Clarke, A. Ehrlich, S. W. Gunn, J. S. Horner, J. M. Lee, P. Sarfman and F. von Hippel, Blackwell, Oxford and New York, 1986, 397 pp.

The Commissioners have based their investigations on six contingencies—ranging from the status quo (which they prefer to call continued non-belligerence rather than peace) to a war scare, and to full-scale nuclear war. Five attack scenarios are thoroughly studied on the basis of all available knowledge and on sophisticated computer models that calculate the extent of destruction, the number of deaths and casualties, and the needs resulting from each scenario.

The conclusions are horrifying and, hopefully, sobering: If nuclear weapons were ever deployed, attempts to restrict their use to military targets would likely fail. Attacks would likely extend into full-scale war. Up to 97% of the population of the metropolis would be killed or seriously injured. Four out of every five houses would be destroyed and the rest become unusable. Of the 3,525 ambulancemen only 100 might survive; the few ambulances and fire engines remaining undamaged would have great difficulty to operate due to lack of gasoline, electromagnetic pulse interference and rubble-blocked roads. It would take London 185 years to rebuild, assuming that any reconstruction were possible.

Another major finding of GLAWARS is that much smaller megatonnage than it was previously thought would be sufficient to cause irreparable damage: "Only" 1.35 Mt would suffice to lay the great city to waste. Medical facilities would be totally insufficient. Civil defence measures would be unable to cope. Nuclear winter would probably set in.

"The prospect facing those who initially survived would be fear, exhaustion, disease, pain and long, lonely misery. Avoiding a nuclear war is still the only way of avoiding this fate", warns the Report. With such a sober humanitarian conclusion from a non-political, independent scientific group, it is also gratifying for this *Review* to note that one of the experts of the select Commission was a Red Crosser.

The Review

HENRY DUNANT: THE STORY OF HIS LIFE IN PICTURES

A fascinating story for all ages

A strip cartoon volume on the life of Henry Dunant has just been published in both French and Flemish.* The idea was put forward by Carl Vandekerckhove, Director General of the Flemish section of the Belgian

* *Henry Dunant, Stichter van het Rode Kruis* (Flemish version) and *D'Henry Dunant à la Croix-Rouge d'aujourd'hui* (French version) (Henry Dunant: Founder of the Red Cross). Published by Carl Vandekerckhove, Editions du Rameau, Paris, 1986, 48 pp. C. Vandekerckhove is also the author of a biography of Henry Dunant: *Henry Dunant, Droom en Dad* (Henry Dunant: Dream and Action), Belgian Red Cross, Publication No. 3, 1978, 407 pp.