

HOSPITALS SHOCKER!

They'll be handed to the Yanks

By DUNCAN CAMPBELL

THREE of Scotland's largest hospitals will be cleared of patients and handed over to the Americans in a war crisis.

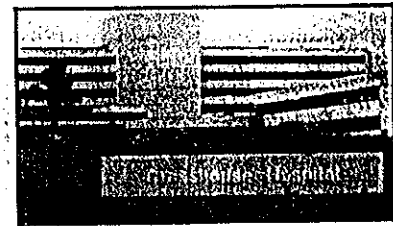
Today the Sunday Mail can reveal that this is just one effect of draconian new War Laws which have been secretly approved by a Government Committee headed by Mrs Thatcher.

The whole plans are veiled in secrecy.

But from my investigations over many months I have discovered that two of the hospitals are likely to be the giant new Crosshouse Hospital near Kilmarnock and the Victoria Infirmary in Glasgow.

Patients would either be sent home or crowded into other hospitals.

Similar rules apply to 27 hospitals



CROSSHOUSE HOSPITAL



VICTORIA INFIRMARY, GLASGOW

SHOCK WAR PLANS FOR OUR HOSPITALS

FROM PAGE ONE in England and Wales.

Details of three new Emergency Powers Bills passed to me show that the Government has also signed a secret agreement with the United States giving away British civil and military resources.

The plans include: ● People living near strategic bases can be ordered out and their homes demolished—by the British OR US military.

● Prestwick Airport—long denied by the Government as having anything to do with the Americans—becoming the major US reinforcement base in Scotland.

● The Scottish Secretary being appointed "Regional Commissioner" with absolute power of life and death.

● Large numbers of "subversives" being jailed with "ordinary" criminals being released to make room for them.

● Adults and children could be directed to work in labour gangs.

On the take-over of hospitals, talks are still going on over what will

happen should resident staff refuse to go along with the American take-over.

It is likely that US military medics would be moved in.

Last night a Scottish Office spokesman said: "Contingency plans do exist but it would be inappropriate to discuss them."

Fiction

Gordon Craig, Scottish Divisional Officer for ASTMS, described the plans as "like a tale from fiction."

"It was clear something like this was going on when George Younger insisted that Health Boards appoint Emergency Planners at large salaries.

"Thank goodness that good old-fashioned investigative journalism has brought these plans out in the open.

"That gives unions like ours the chance to find out more and ask awkward questions.

"It is sad that while the Government are playing war games 3000 kidney patients a year are dying



GEORGE FOULKES "no discussion."

for want of dialysis machines."

Emergency Planners themselves accused the Scottish Home and Health Department of keeping them in the dark.

Sensible

Mary Anne Peach, Lothian's Emergency Planner until six months ago, said: "I often asked about plans but neither the British nor American authorities would tell us."

Ayrshire's Emergency Planner, Mr Andrew Dunlop, said

he knew which hospitals were involved but added: "Get in touch with the Scottish Home and Health Department. It's a political thing. I know very little myself."

A spokesman for Greater Glasgow Health Board said: "We are agents of the Secretary of State and any comment on this would have to come from him."

Admiral Eugene Carroll, former US Commander in Europe, said: "The decision to turn over hospitals to US forces in the United Kingdom is a sensible one."

The new War Laws allow the military to proclaim special zones, called Ground Defence Areas (GDAs), five miles or further round top military target areas.

RAF and Naval bases are obvious sites.

But Prestwick tops the list of major US reinforcement airfields as most US troop flights would land there. And is the main reason why Prestwick Airport is kept

going despite huge losses.

This weekend, Prestwick is one of the sites where the GDA plan is being tested in an Army exercise called Brave Defender.

Bombs

Official Army publicity for the exercise has made it a test against Russian saboteurs. But behind the smoke bombs and bangs going off all over Scotland are the new War Laws.

George Foulkes, MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, said: "It became clear two years ago that the US military regard Prestwick, along with other areas, as their own."

I have been told that the Government does not want any MPs to see the new laws until there is a crisis. Then the Emergency Powers Bills will be stamped through without discussion.

The Government would expect Parliament to pass the Bills quickly in a spirit of national unity—and ask questions afterwards.