

Duncan Campbell finds out military plans
in the English countryside

US builds World War III hospital in Britain

THE UNITED STATES Air Force is to construct a new, 1,000-bed hospital and medical facility, to be kept empty for wartime use only. The new 'wartime medical complex' will be at Little Rissington, Gloucestershire, an RAF fighter airfield, formerly disused.

The base is now being developed as a medical store. Two further developments will provide a 500-bed wartime hospital and then a 500-bed 'aeromedical staging unit'. The new Little Rissington base will supplement already extensive medical facilities in Britain including a USAF Regional hospital at the Lakenheath nuclear bomber base in East Anglia. However, Little Rissington is located much further west than the other USAF bases, and is no doubt considered safer.

The Ministry of Defence last

week agreed that the Little Rissington base had been given to the USAF without any public announcement about 'four or five months ago'. A spokesman said it would be 'a store for drugs and medicines and things like that'.

Other new developments aimed at providing the USAF with a prolonged war-fighting capacity in Britain have been revealed in the semi-official *Air Force* magazine. The RAF and USAF have extensively rehearsed aircraft battle damage repair procedures for getting damaged fighters back into combat quickly. Another recently arrived unit with a similar purpose is the so-called 'Red Horse' squadron now based at Wethersfield in Essex, whose job is to repair damaged runways at British USAF bases, after a Soviet attack. □