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## Irony of nuclear survival 'Biblical'

by Alister Broxton

NEW Zealanders have to plan for life after the bomb — because we're one of the few countries likely to survive a nuclear war.

Commenting on the Planning Council report released today which studies the effects of a nuclear war on this country, Massey University social scientist Alan Webster said there was a "supreme irony" in the council's findings.

"We have an anti-nuclear policy but it's likely we'll have to live with the consequences of others pursuing a nuclear policy.

"There's something Biblical about it — the one who seeks peace bearing the suffering of war."

Dr Webster said most social scientists would agree with the report's emphasis on preparation, anticipation and planning.

"There's nothing new in this but it is alarming that after 40 years of living with the bomb people should still be surprised about the social consequences of using them."

Dr Webster said some sort of "moral paralysis" seemed to have set in after Hiroshima and Nagasaki and people preferred not to think about surviving a nuclear war.

John Campbell-Macdonald, of the Manawatu Peace Movement, also praised the report.

Dr Campbell-Macdonald, also a member of Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, said the medical consequences of the aftermath of nuclear war needed to be studied by the Government.

"Pre-planning is vital. I've been saying for years that New Zealand has no significant drug-manufacturing capability and that drugs would run out and people would die of things like pneumonia, never mind more complicated conditions."