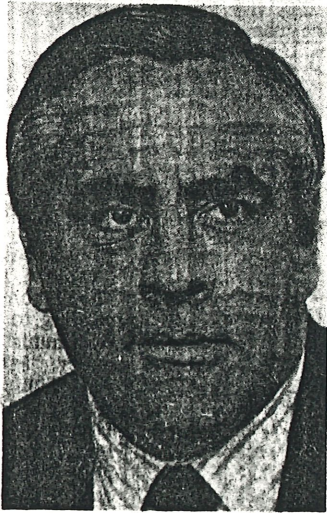


N-hype alleged



MR GRAHAM

PA Wellington
Emotional propaganda has led people to believe New Zealand would be subject to the effects of a nuclear blast, the Opposition spokesman on disarmament, Mr Doug Graham, said.

"This is demonstrably wrong and is obviously the result of much emotional propaganda appearing almost daily in this country," he said.

He described the Planning Council's report on the likely impact of nuclear war on New Zealand as a "rational analysis" showing that New Zealanders had a poor understanding of the effect of such a war.

The report should be widely read and its recommendations carefully considered, he said.

N.Z. N-plan lacking

By OLIVER RIDDELL
in Wellington

No contingency plans exist in New Zealand for what would be done in the event of a nuclear war.

This is the verdict of a six-month study, entitled "New Zealand After Nuclear War," to investigate its impact.

The study was released by the Planning Council and its gist was that New Zealand would have a "nuclear autumn" rather than a "nuclear winter" after a serious nuclear exchange which did not include New Zealand as a direct target.

A big nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people through blast, radiation, disease, and starvation, it found.

These effects would be felt mainly in the northern hemisphere which had the biggest population centres, the likely combatant countries, and most of the likely targets.

The effects on New Zealand would be devastating, but different from those experienced in the north, the study found.

New Zealand was not likely to be a direct target nor suffer direct effects. Radioactive fallout would not be a serious threat to health in New Zealand; it might add 1 per cent to the normal incidence of cancers during the next 70 years.

New Zealand would not suffer the extreme "nuclear winter" effects expected in the northern hemisphere; crop losses would occur, but probably not to the extent that people would starve.

Even without direct physical impacts, a nuclear war would, however, disrupt New Zealand society fundamentally, the study found.

The effects would be widespread, with some sudden and some longer-lasting. There would be immediate fear if not panic at the possibility of direct targeting of New Zealand and of fallout.

The most serious longer-term effects would be caused by the loss of imported supplies on which every sector of activity in New Zealand depended, and the loss of markets for export production.

The principal researcher, Dr Wren Green, said the impact of a nuclear war on the Government and its ability to work would be "extremely severe."

In the immediate crisis period there would be crucial decisions to be made — such as whether and how to ration petrol and drugs, how to distribute goods and services which would soon be scarce because they were dependent on imports, and how to keep lines of communication open.

With the Government's present lack of preparedness, it was doubtful that the people responsible would be able to cope, Dr Green said.

The study was paid for out of funds from the French Government to compensate New Zealand for the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior in Auckland Harbour by agents of the French secret services.