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Goff promises more research

THE Government will act to protect New Zealanders from the aftermath of nuclear war.

The planning council report recommends a special unit be set up to inform the public about New Zealand's chances in a global locaust and wants survival plans drawn up.

Outgoing Environment

Minister Phil Goff said last night one of the reasons the Government allocated \$125,000 from reparations paid by France over the Rainbow Warrior bombing was to assess what action was needed.

He said another \$500,000 was to be spent on further research.

The Cabinet was to decide whether the Ministry of the Environment or the External

Security Committee should oversee contingency plans.

Mr Goff said while a purist response to the report's findings would be to make New Zealand totally self sufficient it would be unrealistic to put the country back to the turn of the century conditions.

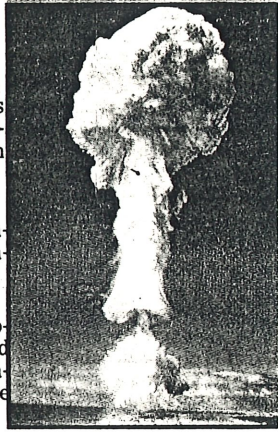
Television

The report blames public misunderstanding over the ef-

fects of nuclear war on this country on movies and television from the Northern Hemisphere.

But Opposition disarmament spokesman Doug Graham takes a different view.

Mr Graham claimed emotional propoganda had led people to believe New Zealand would be subject to the effects of a nuclear blast.



FULL DETAILS OF THE OFFICIAL REPORT ON PAGES 4 AND 5

NZ helpless in a nuclear war

By FRAN O'SULLIVAN

THE Government would probably be unable to cope with the devastation that would occur if a major nuclear war broke out tomorrow.

A six-month investigation by the Planning Council into the effects on NZ of a fullscale nuclear confrontation reveals the Government has no contingency plans to deal with the social chaos and disruption that would follow.

In its report, New Zealand After Nuclear War, the council says, that, contrary to popular belief, radioactive fallout would be among the least of New Zealand's worries in a nuclear war between the superpowers.

While there would be no immediate deaths in New Zealand because the country is unlikely to be a direct target, severe social chaos and breakdown would occur from the severing of links with the Northern Hemisphere.

"With the Government's current lack of preparedness, it is doubtful the people responsible would be able to cope," said principal researcher Wren Green. As individuals, they would be under severe stress and the systems, such as telecommunications and structures they depend on, might not withstand the pressure.

"Everyone, including the Defence Department and the police, would be looking to the Government for information and instructions. Without prior plans, the Government would have enormous difficulty in knowing what to do and every hour of uncertainty could lead to greater panic and chaos," he said.

The lack of plans meant crucial decisions, such as whether to ration petrol and drugs, how to distribute goods and services and how to keep communication lines open, would be impaired.

The council's report said New Zealand would receive only a minute percent of the total global radioactive fallout, even if Australia were bombed.