

MediaSearch Corporation Limited
Private Bag, Wellington 1. New Zealand
Tel. (04) 843-609
Fax. [Intl +64] (04) 849-126

MediaSearch are specialists in:
Business Consulting ■ Business Communications ■ Investor Relations ■ Business-Government Liaison
■ Communications Audit ■ Graphic Design + Production ■ Annual Reports - All Business Publications
■ Project Feasibility + Development ■ Science + Technology Analysis ■ Management Consultancy
Bureaux Services ■ Express News Clipping Service ■ Express Press Release Preparation + National Dispatch
■ Government and Legislation Monitoring Service

Post-war Order Under Scrutiny

Wellington Staff

The Government is reviewing emergency legislation to see whether existing regulations would be adequate in handling a breakdown of law and order after a nuclear war.

The outgoing Minister for the Environment, Mr Goff, said an electromagnetic pulse from a nuclear explosion would destroy electronic circuits and push communications "back into the nineteenth century." In such an eventuality, some form of regional government might have to take over.

Mr Goff was responding to the Planning Council study, New Zealand After Nuclear War, which suggests contingency planning should be undertaken to cope with the consequences of a nuclear war.

New Zealand
Herald 24/8/87

Public View

Any legislation, he said, might need to encompass such ethical problems as to what to do about refugees who could bring contagious diseases at a time when New Zealand's capacity to cope would be diminished.

"The ethics would be extremely difficult. But that is the sort of thing that would have to be given consideration in advance."

Mr Goff said the cabinet's external and domestic security committee was reviewing what governmental structure would be needed after major disasters, including nuclear war.

He would be recommending, however, that public submissions be called in response to the Planning Council report which could be used in a second-phase study on the consequences of nuclear war.

Dependence

In the past there had been a "definite strategy" not to look at such matters because it would have led people to question why New Zealand was in a nuclear alliance.

The Planning Council said a specialist unit should be set up to co-ordinate the second phase and Mr Goff said that could be either a cabinet committee or an officials working party in the Ministry for the Environment.

The report points to New Zealand's 100 per cent dependence on imported medical supplies and the likelihood of fuel shortages.

● Call for planning - page 2; report - page 9.