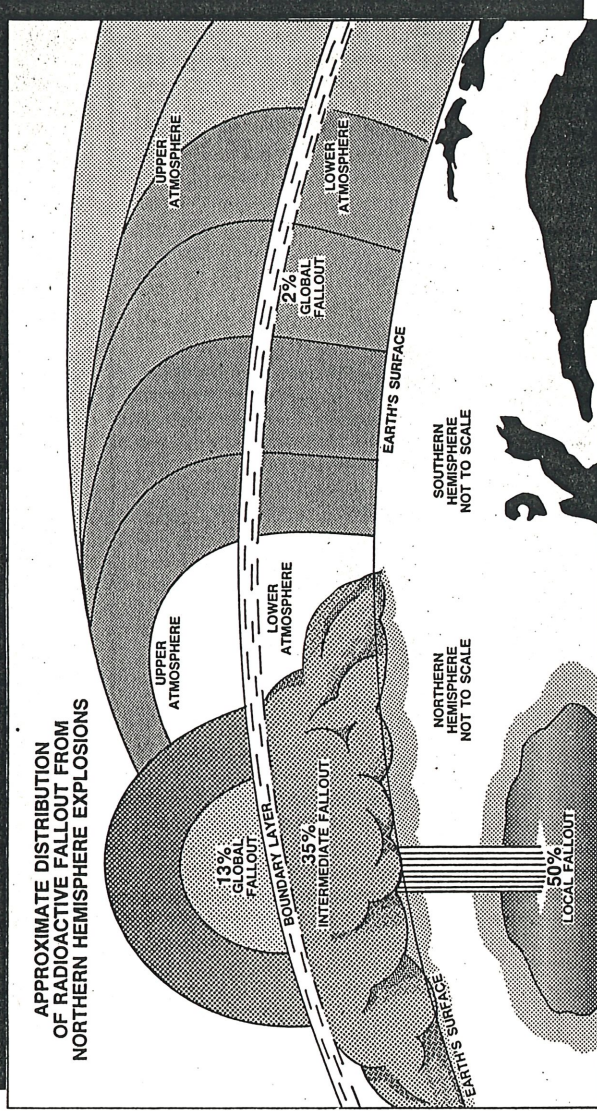


BUT UNEMPLOYMENT, DISEASE AND LACK OF FUEL WILL WRECK SOCIETY

the holocaust

APPROXIMATE DISTRIBUTION OF RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT FROM NORTHERN HEMISPHERE EXPLOSIONS



Study warns against head in the sand philosophy

THE Planning Council's Nuclear War study points out the need for the Government to make contingency plans to deal with the aftermath of a Northern Hemisphere confrontation.

While the highest priority in the face of the nuclear war threat must be given to prevention, the study makes it clear that New Zealand would be unwise to adopt a head-in-the-sand approach to the issue, given a United Nations prediction of a 5% chance of nuclear war during a time of international crisis.

Among the council's recommendations are:

- The establishment of a radiation monitoring system at the regional level — total reliance on the Christchurch National

al Radiation Laboratory would be unwise in the event of nuclear aftermath.

- A public education programme to inform people of the nature of the effects of nuclear war on this country.
- The need for protective mechanisms to be built into communication gear to minimise the effects of electro-magnetic pulses.
- Establishing copies of data bases, increasing the use of optical fibres for communication equipment; retaining knowledge of older manufacturing technologies and operational skills as a technological insurance policy.
- Stockpiling ingredients to manufacture medicines so an adequate supply of essential medicines could be maintained while local manufacturing capacity was established.
- Establishing seed stocks for all important crops and gene banks to preserve genetic material of value for plant breeding programmes.
- Co-ordinated decision making in energy planning to strengthen New Zealand's capacity to cope with nuclear war or any major supply crisis.
- Stockpiling diesel and petrol.
- A plan which would enable the financial system to deal with the effects of the initial crisis period following nuclear war.
- The implementation of policies to deal with the refugee issue.

10,000 warheads will strike European targets — and then Australia gets hit

THE PLANNING Council scenario: a large scale nuclear war in the Northern Hemisphere.

Conflict between NATO and Warsaw Pact forces during the northern summer begins with attacks against key military targets, escalating to destruction of secondary military targets, military industrial bases and finally economic targets.

More than 10,000 nuclear warheads — one-fifth of the world's total — with an explosive force of 5000 during winter, blocking

sunlight and causing surface temperatures to rise.

While bombing is largely confined to the Northern Hemisphere, and New Zealand is not a target, Australia, as most countries for US communications facilities, comes under attack.

The smoke from a July war would reach New Zealand in significant quantities by the end of August, and would then depress spring temperatures.

The smoke clouds

could reduce light levels by about 20% for the first year. Average temperature drops would be greatest in the inland areas of Otago and the central North Island.

Destruction of the ozone layer caused by nitrogen oxides from nuclear fireballs will lead to a 50% increase in ultra violet levels.

Three communication facilities at North West Cape (Western Australia), Pine Gap (near Alice Springs) and Nurrungar

(South Australia) are all destroyed by separate nuclear strikes.

The facilities are widely regarded as high priority targets because of their importance to the USA's nuclear war strategies.

In that case, the council believes, re-establishing trade with Australia at reduced levels would be possible.

In an alternative worse case scenario Australia comes under severe attack. As well as the destruction of the three com-

munication facilities, some military bases and cities are also destroyed.

These include the naval facilities at Cockburn Sound (Western Australia), Darwin's RAAF base, Canberra and another big eastern city.

In addition a high altitude nuclear explosion 400km above Southeast Australia covers New Zealand and two-thirds of Australia with an electromagnetic pulse. Two such explosions would be sufficient to disable communications bases.