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## Nuclear contingency planning underway

WELLINGTON, Aug. 25.

The Cabinet has already started to prepare contingency plans for surviving nuclear war, but is likely to authorise public submissions and a second report on New Zealand's survival prospects before making final decisions.

The outgoing Environment Minister, Mr Goff, said the Planning Council's urgings, in a report issued yesterday, for comprehensive contingency planning would be met, but probably not before public consultation and a more detailed "Phase II" study.

The Cabinet's domestic and external security committee had been reviewing emergency regulations and national disaster planning, and was likely to have the guiding hand in the ultimate contingency blueprint.

Mr Goff said the report's various suggestions of making New Zealand self-

sufficient or stockpiling essential commodities were unlikely to be adopted extensively.

Stockpiling was expensive and unsuitable for goods that deteriorated.

"I think more realistically we need to ... look at whether there are substitutes available in New Zealand; whether even at some expense we could convert our redundant industries into producing the pharmaceutical and other goods we would need," said Mr Goff.

"We would need to look at how we might go about re-establishing trade in the southern hemisphere ... We need to look at alternative forms of medicine.

"But I would not predict that we would make an immediate decision to start moving New Zealand toward self-sufficiency now simply given the prospect of a nuclear war being possible," Mr Goff said. — NZPA.