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PUBLICATION: ~~Christchurch Press~~
PUBLICATION DATE: 1/9/87

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Nuclear stance

Sir,—The effects of a world war, let alone a nuclear one, are unpredictable, so that a "worst case" must be allowed for; but even in a "medium case" we will be worrying about worse things than a bank crash or export hold-up. I would suggest, though, that if the emergency should arise, everyone should be issued with a year's supply of contraceptives (as more children would be the last thing we would want) and a cyanide pill (so that the living need not envy the dead).

Prevention being infinitely preferable to cure, we should be putting our energies into nuclear disarmament to a level which would not threaten total destruction should a war break out through accident, sabotage, or fanaticism. One cannot stop the export of an idea, but there is scope for promoting our nuclear initiative more vigorously. It could be our most valuable commodity. — Yours, etc.,

VERNON WILKINSON.

August 26, 1987.

Sir,—Like Dr Barrie Pittock and the New Zealand Planning Council, the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone Committee gives overwhelming priority to the prevention of nuclear war. New Zealand's nuclear-free zone is a significant step toward prevention as expanding nuclear-free zones, both national and regional, reduce potential battlefields and help create the right conditions for further arms control measures, as well as actual disarmament steps by the nuclear-weapon States. We also agree that "preparation for survival, should prevention efforts fail, should be seen as complementary strategies," as Dr Pittock says (August 26). Considering the horrors, both of nuclear war and the aftermath, tends to strengthen one's efforts towards prevention.—Yours, etc.,

LARRY ROSS,
Secretary,
N.Z. Nuclear Free
Zone Committee.

August 27, 1987.