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## Nuclear war study needing follow-up

THE Government should spend at least \$1.8m on further study of New Zealand's survival after a nuclear war, says the author of a Planning Council report on the issue.

Dr Wren Green, speaking at a weekend peace seminar in Auckland, said he hoped the Government would spend at least \$600,000 a year during the next three years on the second phase of the council's study, *New Zealand After a Nuclear War*.

But he said the level of government commitment would depend on the number and quality of submissions the Environment Ministry received on it.

Submissions will be analysed by an interdepartmental committee and reported to cabinet by early next year. A specialist unit of about nine people will then co-ordinate further research.

### Study

Dr Green was the principle author of the Planning Council report, which was released in August as a preliminary study into New Zealand's chances of surviving a northern hemisphere nuclear war.

The study found that New Zealand would escape the worst effects of radiation fallout and nuclear winter but would suffer an almost total loss of trade and communications with the outside world.

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Dr Green said the report had surprised many New Zealanders, who believed they would not survive a nuclear war.

"I think we have jolted a lot of people into thinking very realistically about survival. It will be grim and nasty, but just how much will depend on the ways we respond as a society."

Dr Green said more public education about the report was needed to encourage people to make submissions on its findings.

### Submissions

He said particular groups he hoped would make submissions were manufacturers, health professionals, unionists, Maori and Pacific Islanders and welfare and education specialists.

In making their submissions, people should realise there would be no return to "normalcy" in New Zealand after nuclear war.

"This raises the very important question of what we are planning for. Is law and order a priority, or keeping the supply lines to the cities, or building community cohesion?"

Civil Defence director Edward Latter reminded the seminar that his organisation had disaster plans "up and running" at a community level.