

Nuclear Impacts file



Rt Hon. David Lange
PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT

22 April 1988

EXAMINATION OF 'NATIONAL EMERGENCIES'

The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon David Lange, has announced the start to a comprehensive examination of 'national emergencies' and the appropriate responses to them.

The impetus for the study was the National Planning Council's report, "New Zealand After Nuclear War". This report recommended that actions should be taken by New Zealand to attempt to avert the worst consequences of a nuclear war.

"The Government decided to consolidate the work done by the Planning Council with a broader study relating to all forms of national emergency," Mr Lange said.

"The aim of this broader study will firstly be to define what national emergencies are and, secondly, what actions the Government can realistically take to safeguard New Zealand against their effects.

"Initial actions taken by the Government include our asking the Law Commission to prepare a study dealing with emergency powers and establishing an inter-departmental committee to examine the broad question of governmental actions."

The Prime Minister said that during the course of this examination there will be an opportunity for public consultation and comment. He added that the Law Commission's study will be published.

Government consideration of the issues is being supervised by Mr Gerald Hensley, the Coordinator of Domestic and External Security.

ENDS

~~David~~ Copy for me ple (copy already given to JG)

LG

JG

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