

# Escape Routes Inadequate In Case Of Emergency

"All towns, villages and built-up areas in the County of York may be subjected to dangerous fallout following a nuclear attack" is the grim reminder included in the recently completed "Plan for Survival" for York County.

The 300 page plan manages to convey an impression both of thoroughness and of the total inadequacy of present facilities in the event of any sort of an emergency.

"In the event of a nuclear attack occurring within the range of Metropolitan Toronto," another section of the report warns, "the following municipalities (Richmond Hill, Wood-

bridge, Markham Village, Vaughan and Markham Townships) would be liable to blast and fire damage and would also be in danger of early radioactive fallout."

Yet evacuation routes in York County could not even handle the populations of this part of the county with an hour's warning, let alone the population of Metropolitan Toronto.

Routes for "refugees" fleeing the attack would include Highways 11, 27, 48, 50 and 400, Bayview Avenue, Don Mills Road, county road 3 and Con. 9, Markham Township.

Total capacity of the nine routes is 11,600 cars per hour, according to Metropolitan Toronto Police estimates. At a rate of four passengers per car, this would permit the evacuation of 46,400 people in the first hour under average conditions.

The plan stated that no more than two hours warning of an attack by manned bombers could be expected. Total population of the southern municipalities which would have to be evacuated is 56,000 the plan says.

Prepared by W.F.A. Preston, county EMO co-ordinator, the plan has been distributed to a limited number of responsible

municipal officials. Part one of the plan deals with the authority under which it was prepared. Authorities include the Ontario Municipal Act, the Province of Ontario Plan for Survival and a county bylaw.

"Assumptions and Implementations" is the title of part two of the plan. Some of the assumptions of the plan are:

"Attacks on North America would only be worthwhile if nuclear weapons were used." No form of nuclear attack on North America is likely to leave Canada free of the direct effects of nuclear weapons. "The basic problem will be survival..."

the plan also indicates that the bomb could be expected to land within a two mile radius of its target.

Warning of a manned bomber attack could be expected from two to four hours before the attack takes place, this section of the plan warns. "The current view is that the public could expect, at most, two hours tactical warning of the first attack."

Warning of an attack by missiles would be about fifteen minutes, the plan forecasts. Section three lists responsible officials in the county in the event of an attack.

Responsible officials in the county would include the warden, commissioners and council and other officials to whom power was delegated by council.

"The Threat" is the topic of part four of the plan. It warns that a nuclear war involving Canada is "not impossible." Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara Falls, London and Windsor are also considered potential target areas in the province.

Section five deals with the aim of the plan while method of execution is the subject of section six. According to section six, the southern municipalities are considered to be

within the Toronto target area by the provincial government while the remainder of the county is part of the Toronto Target Support Area.

Emergency headquarters for the county would be located in the county building, Newmarket.

Other military and civilian government installations in the county are the Toronto Target Area Headquarters, Zone Three Emergency Headquarters, and Metropolitan Toronto Emergency Headquarters, all in Newmarket; North Toronto Sector Headquarters, all in Aurora; and North-West Toronto Sector Headquarters in Schomberg.

Municipalities in the Toronto target support area include Peel, Simcoe, Ontario and York Counties and Metropolitan Toronto.

Power of York County would be limited because such services as local fire and police departments would be placed under provincial authorities in case of an emergency. Each of the county's 14 municipalities would be expected to set up its own Emergency Measures Organization to handle local problems.

A system of alerting responsible local officials is laid down in this part of the plan.

Suitable emergency loca-

tions for municipal governments of the southern municipalities are suggested in the plan. Richmond Hill's government would be moved to Aurora, Markham Township's to Vandorf and Vaughan Township's to King City.

All radio and television outlets in Canada would become part of a special radio network in case of an emergency, according to the report. This would include CFGM.

Method of execution also includes the discussion of evacuation mentioned earlier. Sutton, Jackson's Point, Georgina and

(Continued On Page 7)

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