

Florida from 1-A

But while Florida may be more prepared than its neighbors, neither it nor any other area is ready for a nuclear attack, state and national civil defense officials agree.

Explained Johnson, "If I were comparing a cancer victim who has two weeks to live with a heart attack victim who's getting open heart massage, I'd say the cancer patient (that's Florida) was in fairly good shape."

TAMPA BAY would be a prime target in any nuclear war, officials readily concede. Both its high population and, more importantly, MacDill Air Force Base in southern Tampa would draw nuclear bombs.

"If you've got a military base that's capable of heaping destruction on someone, you might assume that your enemy would want to hit it," said Harry Wiseman, division chief at the U.S. Defense Civil Preparedness Agency office in Thomsville, Ga.

In federal defense estimates, Tampa Bay is listed as one of only three "Category 1" sites in Florida. (The other two are the Orlando area and Homestead.)

All the projections and planning are based on the assumption that a single bomb would explode over MacDill, devastating Pinellas County as well as Tampa.

The blast of heat and air pressure would crumple all but the sturdiest buildings in the eastern half of St. Petersburg and set fire to wooden homes and trees. Tens of thousands would be killed.

BUT FROM THERE, the assumptions, the circumstances civil defense planners believe they can count on, become sparse. What kind of weapon would be used? Would it explode during the day or night? Which way would the wind blow? How deadly radioactive fallout?

And most important, would an attack come by surprise, or would the Suncoast be warned, either by U.S. intelligence services or by days of international tension?

The planners hope they have both alternatives covered.

If there was little or no warning before a blast, sirens would wail and radio and television bulletins would tell survivors to huddle deep in the bowels of tall, sturdy buildings.

The Don CeSar Hotel, Tyrone Square Mall, Florida Power headquarters and the Times Publishing Co. offices are but four of the shelters listed on the county register.

OFFICIALS ARE NOT SURE that all the buildings, particularly those nearest Tampa Bay, would withstand the explosion. They could crumple, killing or maiming those who sought shelter inside them.

"But people would still have a better chance than if they stayed at home," said one planner.

And the mass of steel and concrete in the buildings left standing after the explosion would shield the persons hiding inside from radioactive fallout, officials say.

Civil defense officials hope they could install a trained manager or policeman at each shelter, but they have compiled special manuals in case an unprepared refuge would have to take charge.

"These jackets have all the information a refuge would need to run a shelter if he had any leadership ability at all," said James Johnson of the county civil defense office.

Refugees might have to spend as much as two weeks inside shelters until the cloud of radioactive dust either was blown away from Pinellas County or lost its potency.

Emergency rations, leftovers of the 1960s, have gone rancid and have been removed from shelters, so residents would be told to take their own food, and especially any medicine they need. There would, however, be enough noncontaminated water trapped inside any building to allow the refugees to survive, officials estimate.

MEANWHILE, local government officials would direct emergency services such as firefighting and medical treatment from special "operations centers," such as the one on the third floor of the St. Petersburg police station.

Authorities could order price freezes, rationing and power cutbacks. They could requisition food and other essential supplies. "Call it martial law if you want to," said the county's Johnson.

Even still, only 45 percent, less than one in two, of the population would survive the surprise attack, estimates Robert Williamson, a planner in the state's Division of Disaster Preparedness.

But a surprise attack might not be likely or even possible, some civil defense experts say. Before a "foreign power" — the euphemism used for the Soviet Union — launched missiles at the United States, two things would happen:

There would be days of "heightened international tension," with thinly veiled threats by both sides.

The Russians, who have well advanced evacuation

plans, would empty their own cities to protect their population from the inevitable retaliatory fury of the United States. That evacuation would take at least a few days, experts say, and could not escape the notice of U.S. spies and spy satellites.

Those few days of warning could give the United States enough time to evacuate its own cities, saving three-quarters of the population instead of a mere half, Williamson said.

(Indeed, if the United States as well as the Russians could quickly move the bulk of their citizens out of the reach of nuclear missiles, there might be no attack at all, planners say, because neither side could wipe out the other. As one official said, "It lets the enemy know we have the same capability that they have.")

SO CIVIL DEFENSE officers all across the country are developing plans for moving the residents of high-risk areas, such as St. Petersburg, to low-risk ones.

"When you're in a high-risk area, the best place to be is someplace else," explained Wiseman.

And again, Tampa Bay is far ahead of other areas in planning for "crisis relocation," as officials call it.

The area already has one evacuation plan, the result of an 18-month, \$100,000 study by professors from Florida State University in Tallahassee.

On orders from the President, the governor would in turn order all persons out of areas east of 60th Street (or U.S. 19 in the middle and upper sections of the county) and south of Lake Tarpon.

Newspaper, television and radio bulletins would tell the residents to head for various shelters in the far west and north of the county, depending upon which neighborhood they were leaving.

Residents of south St. Petersburg, for instance, would be told to go to St. Petersburg Beach via 54th Avenue South and the Pinellas Bayway, northeast residents would be evacuated to Clearwater.

PERSONS WITHOUT cars would be taken to the evacuation areas by government agencies.

Besides 375,000 refugees from east Pinellas, another 66,000 Hillsborough County residents would be assigned to Pinellas "host areas." Many more Hillsborough residents would be evacuated north to Pasco and other counties.

Host area residents would be asked — but not ordered — to take in the refugees.

Because the crush of fleeing residents' cars could clog the county's highways, the evacuation probably would be spread over two days.

Authorities could order that only persons with cars bearing even-numbered license tags could use the highways during the first day, with the balance of the refugees following the next day.

Basically, the plan is sound, state civil defense officials say, although it needs some more work.

"We've finished the rudimentary 'get people out of town' type thing," said Wiseman. "What we don't have now is the detailed plans of what you do with them when you get them there."

So state planners will soon begin scouting the Suncoast and consulting with local officials, although it will be at least two years before the evacuation plan is finished.

When they complete Tampa Bay's plan, civil defense officials will start on one for the state's other "target" areas.

"WE CAN SAVE a hell of a lot of people's lives once

we get our plan together," said Williamson. But not yet.

Although their reasons vary, both the people who plan civil defense systems and the systems' critics concur that even the best planning is woefully inadequate.

The Gainesville-based American Civil Defense Association sponsored a conference at the University of Florida last month to decrie U.S. preparations for a nuclear attack.

Leon Goure, a professor at the Advanced International Studies Institute in Washington, D.C., told the conference that the United States needs to build blast shelters — structures that definitely would protect civilians from the actual nuclear explosion as well as the resulting fallout.

The Soviet Union has already built sophisticated blast shelters, which may make American preparations little more than a fig leaf, claimed Goure, a former University of Miami professor.

"Crisis relocation is only a planning exercise and it hasn't gone very far. As it stands now, we can kill a lot of Russians, but we can't save a single American," he said.

"That difference between American and Soviet preparations makes our deterrent less credible. Essentially it means that any resort to our nuclear defense systems spells national suicide."

"Florida's civil defense officials disagree that blast shelters are necessary, although they allow that contractors could make new buildings stronger to withstand nuclear explosions.

BUT THEY CONCUR that the United States needs to spend more time and money planning against nuclear attack.

This year, for instance, Florida's total civil defense budget is about \$3-million, and more than half that will go for hurricane and other natural disaster planning.

And nationally, the U.S. Defense Civil Preparedness Agency will spend \$85-million on civil defense this year, compared with more than \$200-million in 1962. In today's dollars, that \$200-million would amount to nearly \$600-million.

"I think Congress is dreaming about what they're getting for the money," said one state official.

Reports from Washington last week said that President Carter has authorized a doubling of the national civil defense budget to help close the gap between U.S. and Soviet preparations.

But if politicians have put a low priority on civil defense spending, it must be at least partly because their constituents have taken little interest in it.

Local civil defense officials complain, for instance, that owners of buildings designated fallout shelters are often reluctant to display the black-and-yellow triangular sign.

AND COUNTY civil defense officer Johnson, part of whose job is educating the public, complains that he too often has an unresponsive audience.

Ten years ago his office distributed hundreds of thousands of sheets listing the county fallout shelters, but he is convinced he has the only one left; everyone else has thrown theirs away.

"People are worried about tornadoes and they're worried about hurricanes," he sighed. "They're more aware of these things, and they just don't want to hear about a nuclear attack."

"They just don't want to face facts."

Mideast from 1-A

BY INVITING Begin to Camp David, the President seemed to leave the impression that he was looking for Israel to agree to terms set by Sadat for linking the treaty to the future of the Israeli-held West Bank of the Jordan River and Gaza.

Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance is known to have presented new U.S. proposals on the Palestinian issue during his discussions with Dayan and Khalil.

If all the obstacles to a treaty are removed at a new summit meeting hosted by Carter, Sadat could fly here to join in a successful wedding.

Jody Powell, the White House press secretary, said that "sometimes, midweek or so, we ought to know" whether the new round of negotiations will be held.

The future of the Israeli-held West Bank of the Jordan River and Gaza and their 1.1-million Palestinian Arab residents has been the principal unresolved issue.

OTHER ITEMS in dispute include the provision for reviewing treaty terms in the future and whether Egypt's military ties to other Arab countries should take precedence over peace with Israel.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Harold Brown and Secretary of Energy James R. Schlesinger said in separate statements Sunday that the United States would defend its vital interests in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf with military force if necessary.

Brown said that "the United States is prepared to defend its vital interests with whatever means are appropriate, including military force where necessary, whether that's in the Middle East or elsewhere."

At the same time, Schlesinger disclosed that the Carter administration is considering a plan to establish a U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, a leading source of the free world's oil supply.

Both Brown and Schlesinger, who is a former secretary of defense, appeared to take the administration's position a stride beyond that set down by Carter in a speech at Georgia Tech last Tuesday.

Brown, appearing on the CBS news show *Face the Nation*, said that protection of the oil flow from the Middle East is clearly part of our vital interest.

IN A SEPARATE interview, Schlesinger said that "the United States has vital interests in the Persian Gulf. The United States must move in such a way that it protects those interests, even if that involves the use of military strength or of military presence."

Schlesinger, appearing on NBC's news program *Meet the Press*, referred to the President's address in Georgia but said, "We must live up to our commitments even to the extent that that will require the use of military strength."

Asked about sending troops, Schlesinger said, "I think that will have to be considered, quite plainly. If we are considering a military presence, that would involve military personnel as well as equipment."

Venezuela reported raising oil price

United Press International

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Venezuela has decided to increase its fuel oil prices by more than \$2 a barrel beginning March 1, the authoritative *Middle East Economic Survey* reported Sunday. The reported decision follows in the footsteps of Abu Dhabi, Qatar and Libya to raise their official selling prices for crude oil in the middle of the first quarter. Venezuela is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Companies.

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