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NEW YORK TO TEST WAYS TO PREVENT NUCLEAR TERROR

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DISPLAYING ABSTRACT - New York City will become laboratory to test ways of strengthening nation's defenses against terror attack by nuclear device or radioactive 'dirty bomb'; Bush administration will assess new detection machines that are designed to screen cargo and automatically distinguish between naturally occurring radiation and critical bomb-building ingredients; effort, which could be expanded to other cities, is major shift of focus for Homeland Security Dept, as it tries to find ways to stop plot that would use weapon built within United States; critics are raising concerns that program could be very expensive and provide few security gains; Homeland Security officials decline to estimate costs of nationwide detection system, but agency documents show they might spend more than \$1 billion on cargo-screening equipment alone; New York City Police Comr Raymond Kelly warns that plan might set off too many false alarms and, while he is supportive, questions plan's viability; Domestic Nuclear Detection Office is one of newest agencies at Homeland Security; it was established in 2005 in response to criticism that efforts to combat nuclear terrorism were too disorganized; actual design of system and protocols for responding to alarms are still being negotiated by federal officials and authorities in New York City and State, New Jersey and Connecticut

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