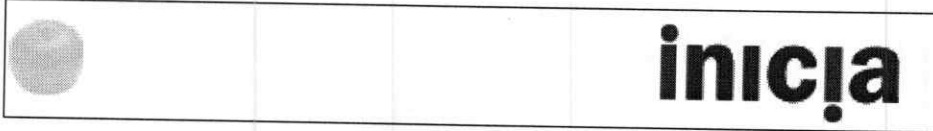


**EL PAIS**  
DIGITALThursday  
26 October  
2000 - Nº 1637

**inicia**

INDICE

BUSCA

e

¿aún no  
te has dado  
de alta?

BCN

EL TIEMPO

7 DÍAS

DEBATES

CARTAS

SUGERENCIAS

PASATIEMPOS

AYUDA

JUEGOS

**SPAIN**

Cover



Intern



Spain



Opinion



Society



Culture



People



Deportes



Economy



© Peridis

## I now pricked complaint before London by the little information on the failure of the 'Tireless'

Aznar considers that "there is no reason for the disquiet" by the British submersible

Ignacio Cembrero / Peru Egurbide, Madrid

The Spanish Government raised yesterday for the first time the voice in the contentious one of the nuclear submarine British *Tireless*, berthed in Gibraltar from the 19 of May last with a failure in the circuit of refrigeration of the most complicated reactor of initially anticipated. The holder of Exteriors, Josep I itched, sent a letter to its homologous Briton, Robin Cook, in whom complaint of "insufficient" the information that receives, considers the agravamiento of the failure "disquieting" and erases of "alarming" the announced prolongation of the stay of the *Tireless* in the Rock until its repair, not before March.

The times finished in which vice-president Mariano Rajoy praised "the very reasonable" arguments of the United Kingdom to carry out in the colony the repair of the ship. The decision of London, done public last Friday, to retire of the circulation 12 submarines similar to the *Tireless* because the failure is structural and, perhaps, generalized, has forced the Executive to reframe its attitude.

I itched recognized Monday that the happened thing "changes the things" and it sent a letter yesterday to the secretary of the Foreign Office. In its letter it is lamented of "insufficient" the received information to date and indicates that it is to him incomprehensible that, five months after the arrival of the submarine, is continued not knowing the exact cause of the failure.

In any case, the supposed fissure in a weld of the refrigeration system has

now become a fatigue of the materials, something that, according to I itched, is "disquieting", because it opens a new dimension in the failure on whose magnitude it requests urgent information. Question in addition if, after these discoveries, the repair can continue being done in the port of the Rock without risks.

The head of the Spanish diplomacy insists on which the concrete data are essential to him because it has not been possible to send to "a Spanish technician so that it states *in situ*, as he would be desirable, the nature of the failure and the safety measures that have been adopted".

I itched gives therefore the printing that it had solicited to make an inspection of *the Tireless* in charge of Spanish experts, something who until now denied their subordinates in the Ministry of Outer Subjects. "We lack submarines of nuclear propulsion and, therefore, we could not to determine what failures have and how to fix them", the consulted diplomats argued.

The main minister of Gibraltar, Peter Caruana, yes wanted to have an independent evaluation before giving his green light in September to the repair of the ship. He contracted three experts in nuclear security and a consultant, who gave to their report the last month.

At the beginning of week, the three experts returned to the colony to value if the agravamiento of the failure forced to review its optimistic conclusions to them, according to informs **Strong Santiago F.** from Gibraltar.

### **Tow of the ship**

In its letter, I itched does not ask for Cook who the submarine is towed until a British naval base, where the repair would take place in better conditions of security. It is about to see if president Jose Maria Aznar will formulate that request to Blair, to which he will tomorrow receive in Madrid and with which will spend Saturday in Toledo.

Aznar wanted yesterday to transmit a pacifying message in the press conference that offered with the president of Argentina, Fernando of the Rúa. Unlike I itched, the president was trusted. "there is no reason for the disquiet nor for the restlessness", insisted. "the relation of the Government of Spain with the United Kingdom is the sufficiently narrow thing like so that, if any new development took place, the public opinion it knew it immediately", it concluded.

The socialist opposition began to practically worry in Madrid at the same time that the Government - not therefore the Meeting about Andalusia about the worsening about the failure of *Tireless*. Manuel Marín, socialist spokesman for Outer Subjects in the Congress, formulated yesterday a battery of questions to the Executive between whom she emphasizes one on the reasons that have prevented the direct participation of the Nuclear Security Council in the verification *in situ* of the reach of the failure and the risks that its repair entails.

"one is not which to the Spanish experts the British give the weapon system them" of the ship, Marín said, "but *the Tireless* is not berthed in the Russian

port of Múrmansk, but to escasisima distance of the coasts of a allied country of the United Kingdom in NATO and the UE ". " there is good reason no that prevents a Spanish access to the ship and the measurement ", it added, " would increase the confidence of Madrid towards London ".

Marín insists on which at heart it is which the Spaniards can carry out a similar *evaluation in situ* to which he could carry out the Executive of the colony.

### **Data by indirect channel**

The technicians of the Council of Seguridad Nuclear (CSN) have processed until now their information starting off of the received information of the British experts who in September initiated the repair of the ship. Today a new meeting will be held in Madrid, first after the discovery of the structural character of the failure, between those experts coming from Gibraltar and civil employees of the CSN, to which the Spanish diplomats and military will be united.

" He is alarming that the Spanish Government recognizes at this point that the information received on the part of the British Government has not been the sufficiently necessary thing nor on the type of failure, nor on the reach of the same one ", affirmed yesterday Trinidad Jiménez, secretary of the Political International of the PSOE.

## **Five months with a berthed nuclear submarine in Gibraltar**

The Country , **Madrid**

The Spanish Government changed yesterday radically the conciliador tone that has maintained since, the 19 of May, *the Tireless* berthed in Gibraltar. The authorities of Madrid accepted from a principle, and without questioning them, the explanations of the United Kingdom, with the argument of which it is a allied country. The problem is that these explanations have been varying in a more and more worrisome sense.

At a first moment it was said that the submersible would only be in the colony days, until being towed to a British base. Later, one inquired into the convenience of repairing it on the Rock, alleging that to transfer it would suppose it a greater risk. At the end of July, the minister spokesman, Pío Cabanillas, assured that the repair had begun and was developed without problems, which did not respond to the reality.

Nevertheless, in the middle of August, when the subject seemed forgotten, the Gibraltarian authorities in front of raised their voice the metropolis and noticed that they would be against the repair of *the Tireless* if they did not receive detailed information of the plans of the Royal Navy. London acceded to postpone the repair and to give documentation classified to the experts designated by the main minister of the Rock, Peter Caruana.

The mayors of the Field of Gibraltar complained the passivity and lack of information on the part of Madrid and reproached that the Government of a

colony of 30,000 inhabitants had obtained more than the Government of a country of NATO, with 200,000 citizens in the zone. The president Andalusian, Manuel Chaves, became echo of the restlessness in the region and he went to minister Piqué to request to him that he demanded the transfer of the submarine.

Around the summer, as much I itched like its colleague of Defense, Federico Trillo-Figueroa, they accused the Socialists of demagoguery and insisted in which the only problem of *the Tireless*, that would be solved before finishing the year, was a fissure of 2 millimeters in the circuit of refrigeration of the nuclear reactor.

The British decision to retire its 12 submarines of the same type, the past weekend, and the in question recognition of a structural failure, ruined this version and mined the credibility of the authorities Spanish \*\*\*  
TRANSLATION ENDS HERE \*\*\*as.

## Blair, objetivo de los alcaldes

S. F. F. /C. R. , Gibraltar

Los alcaldes del Campo de Gibraltar ya no confían en el Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores porque, alegan, una vez más ha ignorado sus demandas de explicaciones sobre la situación del submarino nuclear británico *Tireless*. Así, han decidido que sus protestas y exigencias las escuche en persona el primer ministro del Reino Unido, Tony Blair, durante su visita oficial a España, que comienza mañana, viernes.

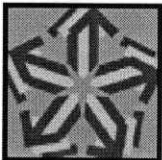
Los siete regidores de la zona debaten ahora si se manifestarán frente a la Embajada británica, si se concentrarán ante La Moncloa o tratarán de llamar la atención ante Tony Blair.

El presidente de la Junta de Andalucía, Manuel Chaves, emplazó ayer al jefe del Ejecutivo, José María Aznar, a que aproveche la visita oficial de Blair para exigirle el traslado del *Tireless* al Reino Unido.

Chaves pidió a Aznar que no olvide a los andaluces y españoles que esperan "una respuesta contundente" de su Gobierno, informa Esperanza Peláez. Y añadió: "Los andaluces no tenemos por qué creernos que no existan riesgos como dice el Gobierno británico, porque, de hecho, nos hemos dado cuenta de que las primeras informaciones facilitadas por éste y por el español eran incorrectas (...). Como todo esto era falso, ahora nos preguntamos si realmente no hay riesgos".

Por otra parte, la argumentación británica de que sería más peligroso trasladar el buque hasta sus bases también ha quedado en entredicho. Varias navieras europeas, entre ellas la holandesa Smit Transport & Heavy Lift, se han ofrecido a llevar la nave al Reino Unido.

**EL PAIS**  
 DIGITAL **OPINION**

 Thursday  
 26 October  
 2000 - N° 1637
[Cover](#)[Intern](#)[Spain](#)[Opinion](#)[Society](#)[Culture](#)[People](#)[Deportes](#)[Economy](#)[INDICE](#)[BUSCA](#)[EL TIEMPO](#)[7 DÍAS](#)[DEBATES](#)[CARTAS](#)[SUGERENCIAS](#)[PASATIEMPOS](#)[AYUDA](#)[JUEGOS](#)

## Lléveselo, Mr. Blair

To PRIME MINISTER of the United Kingdom, Tony Blair, who arrives tomorrow at Madrid, is necessary to remember a problem to him that goes way to fulfill three centuries (Gibraltar), but also another recent good that also tour around the trasnochada British colony and which worries to the Spanish public opinion seriously and seems that also to the Government: the lack of verifiable information around *the Tireless*, the damaged nuclear submarine that remains berthed from the 19 of May in Gibraltar.

The Spanish Government has happened to consider that there was no foundation for the restlessness of the neighbors of the zone, to share his fears, according to is deduced of the letter sent by the Minister of Outer Subjects his British colleague. The affirmation of which there is no risk annuls itself when it is recognized at the same time that it is lacked information. And that is what says I pricked Cook: that the news that is not a singular failure, but of a failure that affects all a series of submarines is "disquieting" and turns into "insufficient" the information facilitated until the moment.

The greater doubt is if the British authorities really know what it happens to him to *the Tireless*. If they know it, is laborious that has not communicated it to their Spanish ally. But still the hypothesis that is more disquieting they do not know it. The fog that surrounds all the relative one to nuclear submarines increases the distrust. That the British have decided to anchor the 12 units of design similar to *the Tireless*, and to retire them of the service by an indetermine time, has supposed the paralyzation of the repair already initiated.

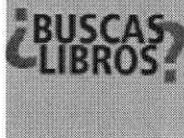
The situation reveals, as now it recognizes I itched, that the existence of a military base in the colony entails potential risks for Spain, without the specific frame of decision making exists in which the Spanish interests are taken in consideration. At the moment, the British Government will have to need if the repair can continue in Gibraltar without risks, and which is the term for it. In order to assure that information does not hide, the Spanish part would have to see guaranteed its access all the data, with the physical presence of Spanish technicians in the submarine and the equipment of repair, something that does not have to raise insurmountable mistrusts between two military allies. In any case, the Government of Blair must demonstrate that the risk is greater of transporting the ship until a British port. And if he is not thus, that takes it.



EL MUNDO  
PERIÓDICO

EUROPE

Thursday, 26 of October of 2000



[You complete](#)  
[The News](#)

[Newspaper](#)  
[First](#)  
[Opinion](#)  
[Spain](#)  
[Europe](#)  
[The International](#)  
[Society](#)  
[Economy](#)  
[Motor](#)  
[Deportes](#)  
[Culture](#)  
[Television](#)  
[It completes](#)

[Indice of the day](#)  
[Weekly summary](#)  
[Search](#)

[Local information](#)  
[Balearic](#)  
[Catalunya](#)  
[Madrid](#)

[THE WORLD](#)

## Protest of I itched to London by the " Tireless case "

MADRID. - The minister of Outer Subjects, Josep I itched, sent yesterday in the evening a letter to its homologous Briton, Robin Cook, in whom it express the " restlessness to him " of the Spanish Government before the new dimension that reaches the failure of the nuclear submarine Tireless, moored in Gibraltar, and in that it is urgent to him to provide information on the real reach of the damages.

According to they informed to Europe Press in Spanish diplomatic sources, in the letter one inquires to him to Cook into which Madrid " highly " considers the explanations insufficient that have occurred to date, and of which it does not understand why, after five months, is followed without knowing which are the causes of the failure.

In this sense, it is asked the holder of the Foreign Office that it presents the magnitude exact the damages and if its adjustment in Gibraltar supposes some type of risk for the population. Also question I soured how long is needed for such works because Madrid considers " very alarming " the extension in three months of the period of repair.

The own president of the Government has predicted to transfer to his homologous Briton Tony to him Blair, in the meeting which they will maintain in Madrid both agent chief executives tomorrow, the attention with which Spain follows the situation of the Tireless. Aznar, which one was more comeasured in his public manifestations that I pricked in its letter to Robin Cook, also committed itself to inform to the Spanish public opinion of any new development that takes place on the matter.

" Evidently ", he said, " in this concrete point in the relation between both countries is the sufficiently narrow thing like so that if some new development takes place, immediately the Spanish public opinion

would know it ", although it added that, at the moment, " there is no reason for the disquiet ".

The HMS Tireless is a submarine of atomic propulsion, of the Trafalgar class, that in May it had to stop of urgency in Gibraltar after detecting in altar a flight in the system of refrigeration of his reactor.

The British authorities reduced importance to the event, but later it was verified that the crack was greater of the recognized thing at first. The seriousness of the finding motivated to the Royal Navy to put out of service to all the similar submarines to review them.

---

It would recommend Copy stops  
this article? TO PRINT

