



Very high success

GOV airport success story given another boost. Efforts have authorised a £37m with builders Balfour Beatty to double the passenger

The new development is in 1995 the airport will be with around 10 million a year.

be a new international terminal, new aprons and improvements to the national departure area.

is proof of the wisdom of kies policy for Scotland.

3 airlines to choose the they want to use has brought ided scheduled links with erica and the Continent to floorstep.

TRIDENT FAILS TO HIT TARGET

TRIDENT has failed to hit its job target.

It will create or safeguard barely half the number of jobs predicted when the Government placed the £9 billion order.

The warning came today in a powerful report from the all-party Commons Defence Select Committee.

It also highlighted a series of bungles and cost overruns which have plagued the programme, including the cancellation of a £15 million magnetic treatment unit at Gareloch.

ELECTRONICS

And the MPs found slow progress in finding alternative jobs for those workers who lost out at Couport be-

BY IAN HERNON

cause of the Polaris replacement.

In 1980, just before the go-ahead was given for Trident, the Ministry of Defence forecast that it would sustain up to 25,000 jobs annually in the construction, shipbuilding and engineering industries, plus another 20,000 indirect jobs in back-up services including iron and steel, electrical engineering and electronics.

The Ministry told the committee inquiry that such estimates have been downgraded to 14,500 direct jobs and 11,500 indirect jobs during the peak years of the programme up to 1983.

In addition, procurement job opportunities have also been reduced. The report said: "Esti-

mates of the overall number of UK jobs created or safeguarded as a result of the Trident programme have broadly been halved over the past 10 years."

ESTIMATES

During that same time spending in the UK has risen substantially and now absorbs 5 percent of the annual defence budget and as much as 12 percent of the annual equipment budget.

The MPs said that the jobs shortfall was due only partly to the more economic use of labour by contractors.

Their report said: "Mod officials were unable to account for the fall."

The MPs said that made them more sceptical of Government estimates of

job creation through defence projects.

Today's report stops short of branding the entire programme a fiasco.

But it confirmed that the programme has been hit by "design faults and management errors".

One of the most glaring involved the cancelled magnetic treatment facility at Faslane which was scheduled for the centre of Gareloch.

CURRENTS

That had to be scrapped because no account was taken of different water currents.

The report said: "The committee expresses astonishment at the way in which a false assumption was made that water currents in the middle of the Gareloch would be the same as those alongside."

The MPs said that the serious mistake "may prove with hindsight to have been a blessing in disguise."

But the cancellation of the project in June 1990, at a cost of over £15 m, showed a degree of mismanagement.

WARHEADS

Most of those job losses could be achieved by natural wastage but Government officials admitted that alternative employment for other victims had proved "hard to find."

The committee put pressure of the Ministry of Defence to identify alternative employment for those Couport workers affected.

But overall, the MPs found that good progress is being made on the entire programme.