

GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

PRESS RELEASE

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HMS TIRELESS

State of Repair Process

The MOD has advised the Government that the repair process has reached the state that the roll over (residual heat source elimination) trial has been successfully completed, the reactor has been depressurised and the loop drain has been completed. The defect site is now being examined to assess the exact location and extent of the small crack.

2. Radiological Monitoring

Since mid-August, the Gibraltar Government, through the Environmental Agency and a Specialist UK contractor has been conducting constant monitoring of the air, soil and water using sophisticated equipment designed to detect the minuted presence. Monitoring of the water has concentrated particularly (though not exclusively) around the Desalination Plants water intake points.

The measures show no impact on the environmental radiological conditions existing at Gibraltar as a result of loss of material from HMS Tireless, i.e there has been no radiological escape from the submarine. The Government will continue this monitoring at least until the Tireless' departure from Gibraltar.

3. The Government's Panel of experts - Visit

The Government's panel of experts will shortly visit Gibraltar to inspect the waste handling facilities, visit the submarine and hold further discussions with MOD, all in order to ensure that the repair is progressing ~ planned and as expected by the panel of experts. This is pursuant to Government's desire to continue to monitor the situation following Government's decision not to oppose the carrying out of the repairs here on the basis of its experts report.

4. Expert's Report

When the Government announced its decision, on 14 September 2000, not to oppose the repairs, Government made a lengthy public statement which included a detailed statement of all the panel's conclusions. The Government has to-day made public the full text of the expert's report. A copy can be obtained, on application, from No 6 Convent Place, as from 3pm this afternoon