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## Trident submarine hit

HONOLULU, Sunday.  
A TUGBOAT sank after accidentally hitting a Trident submarine off Midway Island, the US Navy said today.

Two tugboat crewmen, both Sri Lankan nationals, were missing after yesterday's accident, involving the nuclear-powered USS Georgia, said Lieutenant Commander John Carman, a spokesman for the US Pacific Fleet. He refused to say if the submarine was carrying missiles at the time.

Ten other people aboard the

tugboat were rescued before the Secota went down, three miles south of Midway, Carman said. After the transfer, the tug lost power, hit the submarine's diving plane and sank within two minutes.

Two of the survivors were undergoing medical treatment aboard the Georgia, he added. Their conditions were not immediately known.

The submarine continued undamaged to its next port of call, which normal security regulations prevented Carman from naming.

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### N-sub mystery

THE Defence and Energy Secretaries are to be asked today to explain the circumstances surrounding a serious accident involving a United States strategic nuclear submarine off the coast of Ireland earlier this year.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal trade and industry spokesman, is tabling five questions about the incident involving the US submarine the Nathaniel Green, which carries 18 nuclear missiles.

The MP believes the 16,000 ton vessel was decommissioned in the Sait II treaty and wants an explanation of why it was off the Irish coast earlier this year.

He asks what assistance was rendered to the Nathaniel Green by the Royal Navy; what information has the Defence Ministry on the incident; where was the ship when the accident occurred; how did the ship get back to the United States, and was she given assistance to re-cross the Atlantic?

Report of a serious accident involving the vessel came out in the United States through dock workers, who said she had been so badly damaged that she could never go to sea again.

The vessel, commissioned in 1964, is now reported to be back in the United States

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