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HEADLINES

Friday, August 18, 2000

Government Does NOT back MOD Repairs

The Gibraltar Government have taken the deciding step to condemn the repairs by the MOD on the stricken submarine HMS Tireless. In a statement issued through the main local TV station, the Chief Minister has announced that the Government will not back the MOD's decision to start repairs on the submarine, said to start as from Monday.

The Government's decision to reject the MOD's proposed repairs has come at a time when the British Government stated that the views of the public were not being represented by the protesters. The statement is

seen as a major step by the Government to step up the pressure on the MOD and British Government to remove Tireless from Gibraltar or to give 100% assurances that the repairs do not pose any risk to the local population.

The MOD's decision to start on Monday means that the Government's independent panel have not had time to view the situation properly and verifies the reports that the repair equipment has been in place contrary to reports from the MOD itself.

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Friday, August 18, 2000

MASS PROTEST CALLED FOR MONDAY

"Protesters Launch Major Offensive Against MOD"

Associations and organisations involved in the legal battle against the MOD have informed Iberia News that a major offensive will be launched against the MOD's decision to start repairs on HMS Tirless.

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A spokesperson for the group has stated that a Mass Protest will be called on Monday. The public will be called upon as from Friday to start mounting a general protest, whilst organisations, unions, and ministers will be asked to participate and support the protest after the Government's decision to reject the MOD's repairs to the nuclear submarine.

Janet Howitt leader of the Concerned Parents in Support of the Voice of Gibraltar is reported to be seeking a meeting with the Chief Minister, Peter Caruana, to ask for the Government's support for Monday's demonstration.

The protest will be officially announced tommorrow. Protesters are hoping that the Unions and Government will ask their workers to join in the demonstration, which they are planning to organise for Monday morning in the hope that businesses and all the general public will march with the organisers to demand that the British Government stops the repairs.

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