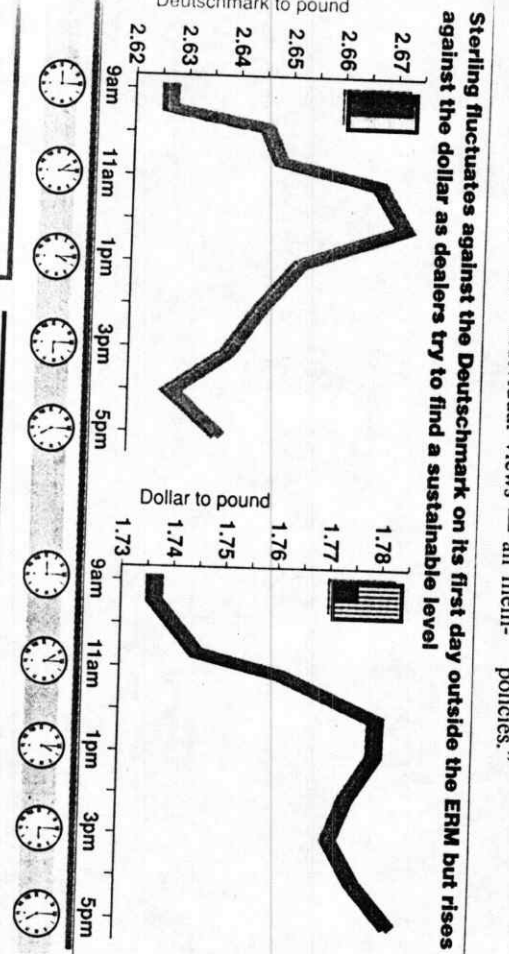


...the FOWS. Mr Lamont denied the economic strategy. A request for individual views — all mem- ... put the initial hints in the ... of its economic ... debate when Parliament is re- ... the Govern- ... ment in next Thursday's de- ... Parliament is re- ...



Sterling fluctuates against the Deutschmark on its first day outside the ERM but rises against the dollar as dealers try to find a sustainable level

If that succeeded in attracting sufficient support or abstentions from a growing band of Conservative dissidents, Mr Major would have no choice but to call a general election.

More probable is that Labour will respond to the Government's defence of its actions by throwing Mr Major's promises back in his face and demanding a programme of recovery to put Britain back on its feet. A device less severe than a vote of confidence is thought more likely to free Tory dissidents to speak out.

As Paddy Ashdown, the

tion that less than a week ago was being condemned as a betrayal of our future is now portrayed as our salvation."

Labour sees Mr Major's tactic of rallying the Cabinet around Mr Lamont, and his praise for his courage, as a cover for his own role as architect of the policy.

They point to Mr Lamont's Euro-scepticism before taking the chancellor's job, and to the fact that it was Mr Major, as chancellor, who took Britain into the ERM at the DM2.95 parity target which eventually broke the back of the pound.

...together and deserve to hang together."

● The economic crisis is to be the focus of a rally in Glasgow next Tuesday organised by the Scottish Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party in Scotland, writes Eric McKenzie.

Speaking after an emergency meeting of the STUC's general council, Campbell Christie, general secretary, said that if there was to be any resignation of an individual then it should be the Prime Minister's.

"He took original decisions about the entry to the ERM ... but more important than that, he is the person responsible for the Government's economic policies.

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US submarine breached post-Antares guidelines

By Denny Macgee

AN AMERICAN nuclear submarine that snagged a Ulster fishing boat's nets had not been following guidelines brought in after four Scots fishermen were killed in a similar incident, a senior Royal Navy officer said last night.

Commodore John Trewby, commander of the Faslane submarine base on the Clyde, said some guidelines designed to stop submarines' colliding with trawl gear appeared not to have been followed.

"Had these been followed, an incident of this nature should not have occurred," he said.

His unexpectedly open criticism was a sign of Royal Navy irritation over the incident, in which the fishing boat Lupina was seconds away

from being dragged under by the USS Sturgeon.

The Tuesday night incident, half-way between the coasts of Scotland and Northern Ireland, has prompted renewed calls from fishermen for a complete ban on submarine activity in fishing areas.

Two years ago, four fishermen died when the nuclear-powered submarine HMS Trenchant dragged under the Carradale-registered Antares off Arran.

After the Antares tragedy, submarine commanders were ordered to maintain a 4,000-yard exclusion zone between themselves and fishing vessels during dived operations and 1,500 yards if at periscope depth.

The US Navy has ordered a ship's inquiry into the Lupina incident. The submarine was

disabled in the encounter and was last night being towed to Faslane.

Yesterday, Paul Johnstone, the skipper of the Lupina, described his terror as the boat, with four crew on board, was dragged backwards at high speed in pitch darkness.

The boat was half-submerged before the nets snapped. "That is the only reason we are alive today. I can't emphasise enough how close we were to death," he said.

The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations expressed outrage at the incident. Bill Madine, chairman of the federation's west coast committee and a partner-owner of the Lupina, said only a complete ban on submarines in fishing areas would guarantee the safety of fishermen.

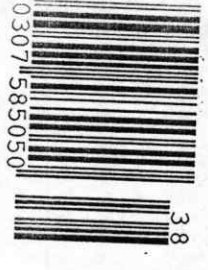
job losses are due to the closure of the Fort William-based retail operation.

Marine Harvest's chairman, David McCarthy, said the closure was the result of a two-year review with Unilever of the loss-making operation.

"Regrettably, we have concluded that there is no prospect of making this part of the business profitable," he said.

In addition to the 120 jobs lost from the two Fort William plants, one of which will close, 25 workers at the fish farm engineering section based at Lochailort will also lose their jobs. The rest of the redundancies mostly affect sales staff in Edinburgh.

The Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber MP, Sir Russell Johnston, said: "This is disastrous news. The operation at Fort William appeared highly successful."



...the Govern- ... ment in next Thursday's de- ... Parliament is re- ...

...together and deserve to hang together."

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