



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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D/ACSA(N)/15/8/3

1 February 2001.

J. Ainslie, Esq.,
Scottish CND,
15, Barrland Street,
GLASGOW,
G41 1QH

Dear Mr. Ainslie,

HMS TIRELESS

1. Thank you for your letter of 22 January, 2001, addressed to the Secretary of State, concerning the repair of HMS TIRELESS in Gibraltar. I have been asked to reply.
2. I should first explain that this office is responsible for providing secretariat and other support to the Defence Nuclear Safety Committee (DNSC) and it would be usual for correspondence addressed to the Chairman to be acknowledged by us and forwarded for his attention and whatever action he deemed appropriate. However, I am sorry to say that we have no record of having received either of the two letters which you addressed to Sir John Cadogan last August.
3. Notwithstanding your views on the decision to repair HMS TIRELESS in Gibraltar, you will wish to be aware that the DNSC has from the outset been very closely involved with the situation and it will continue to monitor progress until such times as the repairs have been successfully completed. As you may know, the DNSC, comprising 12 Members, all of whom are experts in their particular fields, provides independent advice to the Secretary of State on all safety aspects

of the Defence nuclear programme but as such they do not approve MOD's activities As regards HMS TIRELESS, the Committee considered a vast amount of material concerning the repairs needed and representatives including Sir John Cadogan visited Gibraltar to assess precisely the situation on the ground. Sir John and his colleagues were subsequently able to assure Ministers that the necessary due processes are being adopted by MOD and its internal regulator to ensure that the repair work meets all the safety criteria.

4. I hope this explains the position and provides you and your colleagues with the necessary assurance that both the DNSC and the Department regard safety as being of paramount importance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J A Lambert', with a horizontal line underneath.

(J A LAMBERT)