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# Crippled sub linked with Eire

The Dublin government was accused last night of trying to cover up an incident in which a US nuclear submarine lay disabled on the Irish Sea bed for two days.

The Celtic League — an Isle-of-Man based monitoring group — claimed Dublin had "conspired and colluded" with Washington to cover up the April 1986 incident, in which the USS Nathaniel Greene ripped a gaping hole in its bow off the Eire coast.

The submarine — powered by two nuclear reactors and carrying 16 plutonium warheads — had to be towed back to its base at Faslane, Scotland. It was later decommissioned.

The claim follows the sinking of a Soviet nuclear submarine in the Norwegian Sea earlier this month with the loss of 60 lives.

The league's assistant secretary, Bernard Moffatt, has written to the American naval attache in London about the incident in 1986 and has raised the matter with Eire marine minister Brendan Daly.

Mr Moffatt said it was "highly probable" that the

By MARTIN HILL

Eire government had agreed with the Americans to hush up the incident.

Mr Moffatt said he believed the submarine had been severely damaged when it "bottomed out" on the seabed at between 25-30 knots.

He said that on numerous occasions he had requested information on any release of radiation — either from the vessel's propulsion or weaponry — from the American navy but had repeatedly been fobbed off.

The latest row follows an incident early on Monday morning in which an Isle Of Man-registered fishing vessel, the Laurel, was towed backwards 12 miles west of Peel. The skipper had to cut his gear to free the vessel.

It emerged yesterday that the American navy had admitted one of their submarines had snagged a boat's nets midway between Eire and the Isle of Man at approximately 8.30am on Monday.

Last night the Eire government and the American navy were both unavailable for comment.