FOREIGN NEWS

FOREIGN SERVICE

sion killed 10 sailors. an underwater explosubmarine fleet after FRANCE recalled The 2,400-ton Emeraude its nuclear last night

The blast happened as the submarine took part in exercises with surface ships was limping back to port Mediterranean. ifter the accident in the

Exocet missiles or mines. It is not nuclear armed. The submarine's captain was among the victims who died from since September 1988, carries 18 torpedoes and anti-ship and Corsica. between The Emeraude, Toulon naval base in service

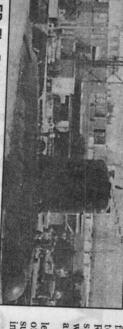
> France explosion recalls leet in

burns or asphyxiation. Their bodies were flown to Toulon.

Ministry spokesman Captain Olivier Lajous. He said the explosion did not affect the produces steam-powered electricity, said Defence nator compartment which to the Emeraude's turbo alter-The accident was confined the submarine was off the coast. We don't know why," said Capt. Lajous.

CRIPPLED: The Rubis-class nuclear submarine Emeraude and there was no risk of radiation. "One of the two turbo alternators exploded while Emeraude's nuclear engine tions about the accident on the Rubis-class Emeraude. because of unanswered ques-

said the other submarines were being called back to port Rear-Admiral Philippe Roy everyone in the turbine com-partment. The Defence Minis-try said: "This accident in no nuclear safety." Capt. Lajous said the submarine had surway affects the vessel's He said the blast killed



faced and was making its way to Toulon unassisted. Admiral Roy said two of the nuclear and one was in the Atlantic. submarines being recalled were in the Mediterranean

in Toulon. submarines, which are based less than a year involving one of France's six Rubis-class It was the third incident in

them are constantly on patrol, armed with Exocet missiles. Between two and four of

bow. There were no injuries. at low speed, damaging its submarine Amethyste hit the bottom of the Mediterranean On March 2, the nuclear

The navy sacked the commander of another which hit a supertanker as it surfaced last August. It ripped a gash in the ship's hull and caused an oil spill in the Mediterranean. was damaged.

by plant blast Worker killed

ONE man was killed and at least 61 people were injured

yesterday when a heating and air-conditioning plant exploded on the edge of Paris, The early-morning blast, which was sparked by a gas leak, demolished the giant Climadef plant near La the massive La Grande Arche windows were blown out and Defense business district. Thousands of office

The dead man was a plant worker. Among the injured was a six-year-old girl who after being pulled from the was in a critical condition wreckage of her home.