

# EVENING Herald

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

PLYMOUTH, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1992. WEATHER: Continuing Mild and settled 26

## 'Give us anti-radiation pills'

ANTI-nuclear campaigners today urged Plymouth City Council to issue pills to protect residents from radiation poisoning.

The council rejected the idea because:

- It would cause unnecessary alarm.
- People would probably lose them.
- And they wouldn't be able to find them in an emergency.

The nuclear Dump Information Group (DIG) believes the council should follow the example of Barrow-in-Furness and

by IAIN BALLANTYNE  
Defence Reporter

distribute potassium iodate tablets so people have them to hand.

Barrow is home to the yard which builds nuclear powered submarines for the Royal Navy.

### Scheme

More than 200 homes around the yard are being sent the tablets because the borough council is up-dating its own nuclear safety scheme.

It believes they should have

them now, rather than wait for an accident to happen.

"If it's good enough for the people of Barrow it must be good enough for the people of Plymouth, a city four times bigger, with four times the risk from nuclear subs," said DIG chairman Kevin Owen.

Plymouth's stock of 40,000 potassium iodate tablets is held by the council for distribution if there is radiation leak from the submarine refit centre.

"We are satisfied with our arrangements at present and are confident they are sufficient to cope with emergencies," said

council spokesman Ian Blackhouse.

"Distribution of the tablet could create unnecessary confusion and worry and we believe there could be a danger that people actually lose them, ending up running around in a panic trying to find them when an emergency does happen."

Under the current Devonport Public Safety Scheme people living in the areas of the city surrounding the dockyard would be visited immediately after a leak, given the tablets and counselled on the dangers by city staff.

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