



Banner waving protestors circle the nuclear submarine

Greenpeace arrests in sub protest

NINE Greenpeace protestors were arrested in a dramatic attempt to board the nuclear submarine HMS Conqueror in Plymouth Sound today.

They were protesting against the possible dumping at sea of decommissioned submarines which they say will be a hazard.

All nine were being held at Charles Cross police station today and are expected to be charged with breach of the peace.

Greenpeace claims that Royal Navy vessels rammed their two inflatables in a bid to stop the protestors from getting on to the submarine.

The Conqueror was being towed to Plymouth for defuelling, the first part of the decommissioning process.

It is feared that HMS Conqueror will be left to lie

in Devonport for years as the first decommissioned nuclear submarine, HMS Dreadnought, has at Rosyth.

Before attempting to board the submarine, protestors unfurled Don't Dump At Sea banners.

Greenpeace Nuclear Free Seas Campaigner Rebecca Johnson condemned the Navy for its action which took place in front of newsmen on a Greenpeace boat.

"They were driving extremely dangerously," she said. "We wanted to draw attention to the fact that that submarine is already a radioactive hazard and will be for the next quarter of a million years."

"The British Government has no idea how to safely decommission nuclear-powered submarines."

A Navy spokesman confirmed the arrests but

could not comment on the actions of Navy vessels carrying out the arrests.

All five of the Valiant and Churchill class submarines are to be axed over the next five years as part of the Options for Change defence review.

Conqueror, which was completed in 1971, is among the youngest of the class.

● The sub that shook the world — page 10.