

## RISKY BUSINESS ... one of the nuclear submarines at Faslane

Health boards agree the pills can be life-savers.

But instead of issuing them in advance, health chiefs believe they can be handed out door-to-door as any nuclear crisis develops.

### DETAILS

Teams are already in place and will be issued with special contamination "space suits" to carry out their work.

However a distribution exercise in England had to be scrapped after the teams giving out the pills ran out of time.

"The problem was that every household had to have things explained to them in detail, which took a long time.

"Emergencies do not happen at lunchtime, so

they can happen at four in the morning or any time.

"Then you have to get people out of bed and explain things to frightened and bleary eyed people," added John Ainslie.

Leslie Wilkie, director of public health with Argyll and Clyde health board, said: "The health and safety of the public is our main concern.

### CHECK

"During the nuclear accident exercise we will be closely monitoring the distribution system in place under emergency guidelines.

"If we find that the plan needs changing then we will change it.

At Devonport there is some pre-distribution of

the potassium iodate tablets.

"But they also have a secondary door-to-door check system to make sure that nobody - such as visitors - have been missed."

And Dr Rob Brogan, public health consultant at Greater Glasgow Health Board, said: "There are good reasons why not to distribute these pills.

### MONITOR

"These include the possibility of falling into the hands of children, people moving on, or selling by dates passing.

"But we are going to monitor the distribution process and if changes are needed to improve things we will consider them."

# Survivors' guide to make you wish you hadn't ...

IF and when it happens, and you survive any scorching blast of heat and radiation, this is what the Ministry of Defence wants to say to you.

The first official statement is sterile and naive, and reeks of economical truth.

Read the following aloud. Remember you are in a state of panic and in need of guidance and help.

"There has been an accident in a nuclear powered vessel operated by the MoD which has led to a release of radioactivity affecting the following areas. (Blank)

"Radioactivity can have effects which do not always show themselves immediately, and a person who considers that he or she may have been affected as a result of the radioactivity released can make a

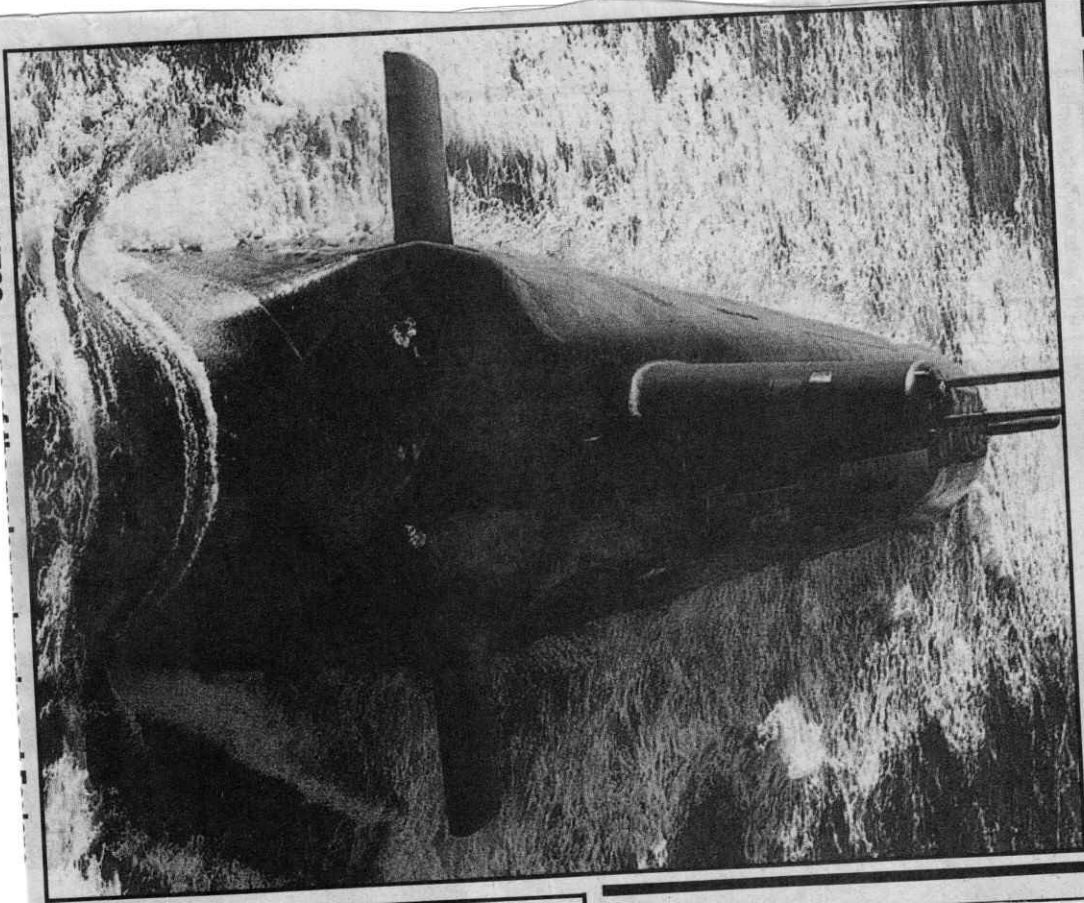
claim within 30 years of the accident.

"He or she would, of course, have to prove that he was in the affected area at the time and this might be very difficult to do many years afterwards.

"The MoD has, therefore, set up a register, and anyone who was in the area at the time can apply to be registered.

"The inclusion of a name in the register will not prove that the person was there, but it will provide evidence that he was, and this can be disputed only if other evidence was produced which showed that he was not.

"Anyone who was in the area between ... and ... on ... whether they lived there, or were there only temporarily, may apply for registration on a form which can be obtained from any Post Office in the area for about one month or from the MoD."



# VITAL TABLETS ARE BEING WITHHELD IN CASE OF

EVENING TIMES

NEW