

VOICE OF THE Times

Rifkind should feel ashamed

THE Ministry of Defence has attempted to keep secret the devastating effects of a "worst possible" scenario nuclear submarine accident.

They hid a report revealing radioactive iodine could affect 60 per cent of Scotland's population under a cloak of secrecy.

And the reason for not telling Scottish emergency planning officials?

"Such an accident is such a remote possibility it is virtually inconceivable," they say.

YET THE MOD HAS DRAWN UP AN EMERGENCY REACTION PLAN IF IT DOES HAPPEN!

The revelations come as Malcolm Rifkind celebrates the opening of the Trident storage and maintenance facilities at Faslane.

Today's ceremony highlights the Government's hypocrisy over the entire Trident project.

While the safety record of the Clyde base has been good it must also be remembered that Scotland is being exposed to huge risks.

Who can forget how we were sold down the river over Rosyth and deprived of the promised job benefits for reluctantly accepting those risks?

We hope Defence Secretary Rifkind felt suitably humbled and ashamed as he cut the ribbon at Faslane today.