

Spotlight May 80

They worked round-the-clock for three days!

Two men from Rosyth Dockyard worked round the clock for almost three days to repair a vital piece of equipment on the Polaris submarine HMS Repulse — and their efforts ensured the submarine was able to go out on patrol from Faslane.

In a signal to Rosyth's General Manager, the Commanding Officer of HMS Repulse praised what he described as 'the unstinting efforts' of Mr. Les Alexander and Mr. Eric Perkins.

Mr. Alexander, a PTO III (electrical) test director, worked from Thursday night until Sunday night almost non-stop. And he was joined on the Friday morning by Mr. Perkins, a diagnostician, who worked with Mr. Alexander until the job was completed.

The fault was on a 64KW motor generator, and it was only after repeated attempts to

repair it that the Ship's Staff asked for the Dockyard's assistance.

The equipment had been refitted in the United States and this added to the problem of ascertaining exactly what was wrong.

In the end, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Perkins took a piece of equipment from another machine, dismantled it (since it was too big to take on board) and put it together again on the submarine.

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Greenpeace to take on Navy over nuclear subs

Rob Edwards

THE Greenpeace ship Moby Dick is to sail up the Firth of Forth to the naval dockyard at Rosyth today to confront the Royal Navy over alleged environmental dangers posed by its nuclear submarines and warheads.

The expected confrontation will be the first stage of a month-long campaign during which the Moby Dick will visit the US Navy at Holy Loch on the Clyde and the Royal Navy's other bases at Plymouth and Portsmouth.

Greenpeace has not revealed its precise plans but says it wants to test samples for radioactivity.

The "nuclear-free seas"

campaign aims to highlight possible threats to the health of local communities and workers at the bases.

In a report published yesterday, Greenpeace criticised the Navy's emergency plan in case of a nuclear accident at Rosyth as complacent and inadequate. It said that the worst case envisaged involved counter-measures only up to two kilometres away, although US studies suggested that the whole of Edinburgh would need to be evacuated if the wind were blowing in that direction.

Along with Mr Alex Falconer, Labour MEP for Mid-Scotland and Fife, Greenpeace called for a public inquiry into the recently disclosed £4 million plan to

build a nuclear-waste storage plant at Rosyth.

Its spokesman Mr Colin Hines told journalists in Edinburgh that the Navy had "another big problem" with the defunct nuclear submarine HMS Dreadnought, which has been at Rosyth since 1983 pending a decision on how to dispose of it.

He said Greenpeace and the National Union of Seamen were "adamantly opposed" to the favoured option: to dump Dreadnought — and nine other nuclear submarines due to be decommissioned by 2,000 — in the sea.

The Royal Navy yesterday denied that Rosyth posed a threat to human health and dismissed Greenpeace's claims as nonsense.