

# Part from nuclear sub washed ashore

By a Staff Reporter

A piece of equipment from a US navy Poseidon nuclear submarine washed up on a beach at Shannon was yesterday on its way back to the submarine base at Holy Loch in a lorry under police escort. The US embassy said it was

not a nuclear missile, as had been reported, but declined to give further details. The equipment was found two days ago. When the lorry arrived in Liverpool from Dublin an American master sergeant checked the documents before giving the Irish driver direc-

tions to the Holy Loch base of submarine group 14.

B and I Ferries, the Irish ferry company said they knew nothing about submarine parts. The equipment was described on the manifest as a sonar buoy. Last night no-one was available for comment at Holy Loch.

# Nuclear pressure group says sub hit waste barrels

The US submarine which was found to have radioactive paint on its hull may have been contaminated after colliding with an undersea nuclear waste dump off Land's End nine months ago, the anti-nuclear group, SCRAM, claims in the latest issue of its magazine.

The USS Sam Rayburn was found to be contaminated at the Holy Loch base earlier this year. It was said that radioactivity had been discovered by a routine survey but was of such a low level it could not be detected by geiger counter.

The source of the contamination has never been admitted, though Labour MP, Mr George Foulkes received blunt denials in the House of Commons when he asked if there had been any leak from the nuclear propulsion unit or if the submarine could have been affected by sailing through a radioactive slick near the Sellafield reprocessing plant on the Cumbrian coast.

Mr Foulkes said yesterday that he would be raising SCRAM's allegation in Parliament as soon as possible. "I have been getting denials that anything out of the ordinary has happened but the Government is being very evasive

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and does not exactly volunteer information," he said.

The SCRAM magazine, published today, claims that the Poseidon submarine ran into a batch of waste barrels 175 miles south-west of Land's End on September 2 last year. The boat, carrying 16 nuclear missiles, lay on the seabed for three days until a team of divers from Plymouth found it to be undamaged.

The submarine did not arrive at Holy Loch until mid-January and decontamination work did not begin in the dry dock until the end of February, according to SCRAM. News of the radioactive paint was not carried in the Press until April. The submarine is said to have sailed on April 20.

Last night a spokesman for the Department of the Environment said it had no information about any incident involving a submarine and nuclear waste material. The sea off Land's End was not a designated dumping zone but if a more detailed position for the alleged incident could be supplied the department would investigate it, he said.

No-one could be contacted for comment at Holy Loch yesterday.