marine, HMS Splene trailing sonar array. powered hunter-killer marine, HMS Splendid, orrespondence will be ministers will be to the Comer sublost its

potentially dangerous and possibly provocative activity can be justified. prove correct, opposition will demand to know how potentially dangerous and off while playing cat and mouse with a Soviet ballistic missile submarine in the Barents Sea prove correct, opposition MPs If reports that it was

HMS Splendid is safely back in the Devonport naval dockyard at Plymouth, undergoing what the Defence Ministry described yesterday as "routine maintenance." A spokesman said that it was not undergoing damage repairs, but he would the splendid that it was not undergoing the splendid damage repairs, not comment aspect of its The reason submarines HMS Splendid are known recent patrol. n as y are with

HMS Splendid are known as hunter-killers is that they are designed and equipped with sonar listening devices, torpedoes and missiles, for tracking enemy submarines as well as surface ships. In a general war between that and the Warsaw Pact, one of their jobs would be to prevent Soviet hunter-killers breaking out from the shallow from the Barents Sea into the open Atlantic. Another would be to locate Soviet ballistic missile submarines—the equivalent of the Royal Navy's for Linlithgow, said that he would also be raising the matter during today's debate and seeking to discover how man, last was not simply an accident if would be necessary to review the guidelines governing subfactual explanation from Ministry of Defence. If The Alliance defence spokes an, Mr John Cartwright, said ast night he would seek operations of this kind simply an accident E #

Vis- and seeking to the valuable the valuabl

Polaris boats — and destroy them before they launched their nuclear-tipped missiles.

a. British and Soviet submarines re- have to practise lying in wait for one another listening, shadsowing and closing in sufficiently to launch their homing torpedoes or missiles. Sooner or later this is bound to lead to a near miss or a collision—as it therefore

e disproportionate risks were taken this time. A suggestion in yesterday's Mail on Sunday that a Soviet submarine may deliberately have severed the Splendid's towed array of sonar hydrophones in order to recover it seems extremely unlikely, because of the n cover it seems extremely unlikely, because of the manoeuvre's inherent difficulty and because what little could be learned about Nato's antisubmarine technology would e not justify the risks involved. question for the Na le House of Commons unnecessary ate risks v

> contem-01 gninelingiri 001 are consequences trol because the possible it was brought under conthe dry dock. We were lucky on this occasion that after a small explosion on

"According to our infor-mation the fire broke out to heavily populated areas. nuclear warheads so close Carrying submarine major repair work on a the Americans to be doing board so it is ridiculous for missiles while in the dry dock. The Royal Mavy docsn't allow its submarines to come into Faslane with missiles on the residence on the residence of the residen was carrying her Poseidon "We believe therefore that the Nathanael Greene

"The operating instructions for US nuclear submarines state that they will carry their missiles at all times unless at their home port.

pies 'uib1 or Jeremy Adler,

y dock at Faslane. hy Loch to find the nerican floating dry ck, Los Alamos, out of mministion. It was then wed to the Royal Mavy's wed to the Royal Mavy's The submarine had the back to its base at

pairs after having lost its opeller a week earlier in Irish Sea. submarine, Nathanael sene, was in the dock for oup, Scram, says in the est issue of its newsest issue of its newster that the fire broke
t in Faslane's dry dock
Saturday, 18th August,
sen the US ballistic missnen the US ballistic miss-The anti-nuclear protest

lers have claimed. fire at the Faslane brastine base, peace prossile submarine was reatened by an outbreak nuclear

dry dock with its full comp-lement of nuclear missiles it certainly wouldn't surprise me if it was in the

submarine was involved because we have no control whatsoever over them and "We are extremely worried that an American

of this incident. Soil, or Dambarton District Council's peace committee the Secretary of State de-manding an investigation of this incident son, of Dumbarton District Councillor Les Robert-

dry dock. havy commined trefts fact to the been no damage to the confirm or deny whether the vessel had any nuclear warheads on board while in warheads on board while in navy confirmed there had A spokesman for the US

out in a sealed compart-ment some distance from which he said had broken

Nathanael Greene was in any danger from the fire He also denied that the

of the motor. capetan motor igniting a small quantity of canvas which had been left on top by an electrical fault in a A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence denied this was the cause of the fire. He said it was caused fire. He said it was caused

playing on a gas bottle which had exploded, caus-ing the fire." welding torch had been left over it. Workers told us a Fastlane peace camper, again, "We saw the American aubmarine in the dry dock with a large pall of thick black smoke hanging thick black smokers told us a over it workers told us a Mr William Peden,

and has a complement of 20 officers and 148 other ries 16 Poseidon missiles

The 425ft, submarine car-Fears over fire near nuclear missiles sub nuclear missiles 51500