

HELEN BURSH
ADVERTISER
11-2-91

'DANGEROUS' SUB AT SEA — CLAIM GREENPEACE

A submarine which, it is claimed, is at risk from a cracked nuclear reactor left the Clyde Base at Faslane last Thursday.

According to environmental campaigners Greenpeace, HMS Resolution is one of the Royal Navy submarines at risk although this is denied by a Base spokesman.

He said there had been a fault found in one submarine of a different type from Resolution and checks were made.

"There is no way the Royal Navy would send a submarine to sea if it wasn't safe," he said.

Greenpeace claimed that observers reported that Resolution went straight out to sea and did not load with nuclear missiles at the Couport Armaments Depot. They believed that the vessel was going on sea trials prior to a full patrol.

Greenpeace, who expressed concern at the time because of the length of the patrol.

Greenpeace has been collecting information on the movements of Polaris vessels after commissioning a report which showed that almost half of the Royal Navy's fleet of submarines have a design fault which, they say, could lead to the loss of them or a reactor core meltdown.

The fault, claims Greenpeace, consists of reactor cracks of a generic, design related nature that is potentially present in all subs powered in this way and includes four Polaris vessels.

"Resolution is the oldest of the Polaris submarines," said Greenpeace, "and Archie Hamilton, the Armed Services Minister, stated on January 14 that it will not be undergoing an expected fourth re-fit.

have not left their bases since October 1987.

"Of the Polaris submarines only HMS Revenge and HMS Resolution still appear to be being used. A Base spokesman said that they were "not in the business" of discussing the operational controls of submarines.

"Since confirmation of the problem with the reactor, three of the affected submarines have been decommissioned, three