

# ROUND THE CLOCK RADIATION CHECK

**Clyde Submarine Base is seeking permission to install air radiation monitors between Garelochhead and Rosneath.**

The Defence Land Agent, on behalf of Commodore Clyde, applied to Dumbarton District Council last week to allow the erection of the Geiger Muller monitors at ten sites on the west of

the Gareloch.

If given the go ahead the box like monitors will detect, measure, transmit and record information relating to radiation levels in the event of a nuclear accident.

In addition to the ten around the base perimeter they plan the installation of a further 13 monitors inside the base, to replace the present system. Currently checks are carried out in monitoring Land Rovers but this method is time consuming, and unlike the monitors, can not provide round the clock

surveillance.

The monitors have already been introduced at similar nuclear establishments around the UK and are shortly to be installed at Rosyth.

If they get council permission all of the monitors, at a total cost of £80,000, should be in place in around eight weeks time.

In the event of an accident all monitoring and meteorological information will be made available to civil, as well as military, emergency organisations.

Faslane Peace Camp welcomed the monitors' installation but voiced some misgivings about their credibility.

A camp spokesman said: "We would welcome one at the camp. If they want to put one here, but I'd like to know a bit more about the technical aspects of the monitors."

"For example what sort of monitor it is and what it is being set to detect."

"It sounds laudable and we congratulate them in responding to local fears but it may not be significant and may not

mean anything.

"There are so many different types of radiation and if they are not looking for the right stuff they won't detect anything."

"We would like to see independent monitoring of radiation levels."

"We are in touch with the Cowal Monitoring Group to see if they can move some of their surplus equipment over here so that we can set up our own monitor. I'm sure our findings could be just as independent as the base's."

## MONITORING STATIONS TO BE BUILT AROUND LOCHSIDE

**Monitoring stations which would provide information in the event of a nuclear reactor accident are to be erected at various locations around the Clyde Submarine Base at Faslane.**

A Notice of Proposed Development from the Ministry of Defence was submitted to Dumbarton District Council's planning and development committee last week for the installation of 23 stations strategically placed around the Base and on the Peninsula.

The Naval Perimeter Monitoring System is designed to

detect, measure, transmit and record information relating to an airborne radioactive hazard in the "unlikely" event of a nuclear reactor accident.

Planning committee members were told that the system is designed to provide 360 degree constant air monitoring and any increase above an established natural radiation background will be measured and the processed data relayed to a permanently manned site within the Base.

In the event of a reactor accident the information will be made available for use by both military and civil emergency organisations.

Of the 10 sites proposed for the east side of the Gareloch, six will be roadside locations on the B.833, one will be within the grounds of the

British Telecom building at Silver Hill, Rosneath, and the remaining three situated along the hillside above the B.833.

A letter of objection from residents of Pier House, Mambeg, state the area is greenbelt and the MoD should not be allowed to build huts in the area.

They also suggest that the MoD should be made to clean up beaches on the east side of the Gareloch as rubbish and plastic deposited on the beaches comes from Faslane.

Ian Fernie, planning director, said that the area is designated rural outwith the greenbelt. The stations do not involve the erection of huts and the problems of rubbish could not be directly associated

with the present proposal.

Other residents in Chistlehurst, Clynder, suggested that the stations should be painted green in consideration of their surroundings.

The committee agreed not to object in principle to the

proposal but will suggest to the MoD that one station should be relocated a further five metres into a field on an access road for Little Rahane Farm off the B833 to avoid interference with sightlines.