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Conqueror torpedoed!



THE submarine which sank the General Belgrano was itself on the receiving end of a torpedo last week.

The Faslane hunter-killer HMS Conqueror was hit by a training torpedo dropped by a Royal Navy helicopter in an exercise off the west coast.

The torpedo smashed into the bow of the nuclear-powered sub and she had to return to her Clyde base for repairs.

The Ministry of

Defence said that Conqueror, which sank the Argentinian cruiser in the opening stages of the Falklands war, was on the surface when the accident happened.

A spokesman said: "The torpedoes being used were the same size and weight as the real thing but contained no explosive."

"It was only the outer casing of the submarine that was damaged."

He added: "The exercise involved anti-submarine helicopters dropping torpedoes from the air. But it was not part of the plan for one actually to hit a submarine."

MoD in Base move

THE Ministry of Defence is re-siting one of the key installations at the Clyde Submarine Base.

The installation, described as a Magnetic Treatment Facility, is to be housed in a floating structure moored to the bed of the Gare Loch about 1,000 feet off Rowmore Point.

The contract for building it is likely to be awarded early next year and construction will start in 1990.