

6, Glenbank Road
Lenzie
G66 5AF

10 November 1997

Dear Carl,

Here's the reply we got from
George Robertson, via our MP Tom Clarke,
regarding the forthcoming 'Short Term'
to come.

Needless to say, we are totally
reassured by this waffle!

Best wishes

Chris & Heather Baldry

THE RT. HON. TOM CLARKE CBE JP MP
Member of Parliament for Coatbridge & Chryston



30 October 1997

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Chris & Heather Baldy
6 Glenbank Road
LENZIE.

Please address your reply to:
37 Blairhill Street
COATBRIDGE
ML5 1PG

Dear Constituents,

I took up with the authorities the matter you raised with me.

I have now received a reply which you will find enclosed.

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely

Tom Clarke

TC

TOM CLARKE.



RECEIVED 21 OCT 1997



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 0171-21 82111/2/3

SECRETARY OF STATE

D/S of S/GR 3949/97/M

8 October 1997

John Tom

Thank you for your letter of 2 October on behalf of your constituents, Chris and Heather Baldy of 6 Glenbank Road, Lenzie, who have asked you for details regarding Exercise **SHORT SERMON**.

Exercise **SHORT SERMON**, which will be held in the Faslane area between 18 to 20 November 1997, is being designed to test the response of the MoD and Royal Navy in dealing with an accident involving the reactor of a nuclear powered submarine berthed in Clyde Naval Base.

I should say first that there has never been an accident involving a nuclear powered submarine reactor which has led to, or come anywhere near leading to, any release of radioactive contamination to the environment. I am confident that the continued application of stringent safety procedures performed by my Department will continue to prove effective in preventing any such accident.

The Rt Hon Tom Clarke CBE JP MP



Recycled Paper

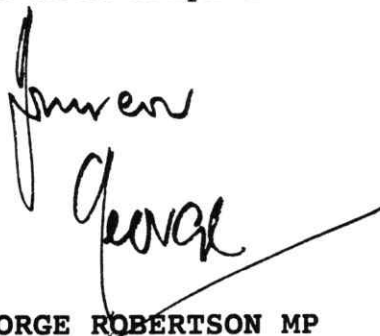
I would, nevertheless, consider it irresponsible not to have comprehensive contingency plans for dealing with all aspects of such an eventuality, consequently these plans are tested in regular exercises at various levels including full scale events such as Exercise **SHORT SERMON 97**. An overview of these arrangements was given in the Statement on Defence Estimates 1995.

Plans for responding to defence nuclear accidents are derived in full consultation with all relevant government departments, agencies, and in particular with the emergency services and local authorities in the area concerned. The joint plan for responding to a submarine reactor accident at Faslane is a publicly available document. Furthermore, the public in the immediate area, who might be advised to take action, are sent leaflets under the provisions of the Public Information for Radiological Emergencies Regulations.

A key aspect of the exercise will be coordination of activities between the MoD and other agencies. My Department has been encouraged by the comprehensive support for the exercise that has been provided by all local emergency services and authorities and by the Scottish Office and other government departments.

The accident scenario will be simulated and no radioactive contaminants will be used during the exercise. There will be an evacuation of the Naval Base in accordance with the plan, but I would like to reassure you that the local community will not be affected in any way by the exercise.

I hope you find the above both helpful and reassuring.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Robertson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

GEORGE ROBERTSON MP