

20 OCTOBER '97.

Dear 

I enclose a copy of the letter, which I talked about at Conference, to direct at newspapers re. "Exercise Short Sermon"

Newspapers I have targeted are:-

SCOTLAND OF SUNDAY.

THE SCOTSMAN.

THE HERALD

THE PRESS & JOURNAL.

THE INVERNESS COURIER.

THE WEST HIGHLAND FREE PRESS.

THE ROSS-SHIRE JOURNAL.

THE OBAN TIMES.


THE ORCADIAN.

THE SHETLAND TIMES.

If you can fax my letter out to sympathetic organisations, or individual members who can write to their local papers, we may yet get somewhere. I have also placed in position follow up letters.

condemning Trident, by member supporters in the Highlands.

I will ^{be} starting shortly a series of speaking engagements mostly to SNP Groups. If you have 'space' Nuclear Free Scotland (Sept. 97) and the 'Taking on Trident' coloured leaflets, please let me have a copy, Thanks,

In peace 

To - THE EDITOR,
SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY.

19 OCTOBER '97.

Dear Sir,

SCOTLAND'S CHERNOBYL.

Between the 17th and 19th November 97, the largest ever nuclear accident exercise will take place at the Faslane submarine base on the Clyde. Called "Exercise Short Sermon", the plans are to prevent a nuclear submarine from meltdown of its nuclear reactor. The Navy will have just 3 days to try and cool the reactor or face disaster. The exercise will involve the evacuation of 5,000 people from inside the base, and the possible evacuation of civilians from 12 kilometers downwind. Such arrangements in a real crisis would be pathetically inadequate. As radiation knows no boundaries, every person in Scotland would be at serious risk.

In a real crisis, the task facing the emergency services would be a very daunting one. Alongside the white-hot radioactive reactor the stricken vessel would be carrying 800 tons of liquid rocket fuel, 60 to 100 nuclear warheads (enough to destroy a continent) and up front 14 torpedoes packed with high explosive

Fires have already occurred on nuclear submarines, when desperate attempts have been made to hurriedly remove the nuclear missiles. This practice at the best of times, is a slow and dangerous procedure. There

is at least one recorded incident of a nuclear missile having slipped from the crane carrying it and falling on the quayside.


Around the Scottish coast, there is a number of Z BERTHS, where nuclear submarines may tie up in an emergency. This means that a serious nuclear accident could occur anywhere; a stricken nuclear submarine could just as easily come to grief in the Firth of Forth or the Moray Firth as on the Clyde. It would appear that the lessons of Chernobyl have never been learned and that as long as we have nuclear submarines all around us, a nuclear disaster of terrifying proportions is only minutes away.

Perhaps you may wish to write to your Council (attaching a copy of this letter), asking what their plans are to deal with such an emergency. Do they have plans to evacuate both Edinburgh and Glasgow? Please keep your M.P. in the picture.

Although the Cold War has long since finished, ~~the~~^a new generation of Trident nuclear submarines are being operated, costing the taxpayer £1.5 billion a year. Will it require a major nuclear accident to awaken the Government of the need to scrap these insane weapons of mass destruction?

Yours faithfully,



 a Vice President, Scottish C.N.D. & ex Captain R.A.)