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Subject: Nuclear Accident Talks

DIG News Release  
Plymouth nuclear Dump Information Group, Plymouth, UK  
October 15 1997 For Immediate Release

#### NUCLEAR ACCIDENT TALKS

Community groups, residents associations, school heads and governors and city councillors will have a face to face meeting with senior representatives from the Navy, the Health Authority and Plymouth City Council Emergency Officers on Tuesday 21st October, 7.00 pm in the Main Hall of Parkside Comprehensive School, Devonport, Plymouth to discuss controversial plans for public safety in the event of a nuclear submarine accident at Devonport Dockyard.

This is the third in a series of meetings organised in conjunction with Plymouth City Council to raise nuclear safety issues of sheltering, evacuation and the taking of thyroid cancer blocking Potassium Iodate Tablets in the event of a release of radiation from the Nuclear Submarine Refit Complex.

At a previous meeting, residents and councillors were shocked when it was suggested by the Navy and local Health Authority that 'volunteers' from the community would be asked to man emergency stations during a nuclear disaster to give out tablets and safety advice. That plan has now been replaced by a 'pick n' mix' scheme of tablet distribution by an unknown number of untrained Naval ratings wearing protective masks, according to the Navy. DIG do not believe the present scheme will work and have criticised the poor planning and lack of consultation by the Health Authority who's job it is to draw up the tablet distribution plans.

Barne Barton School governor Ken Tucker has also questioned the plans and has voiced concerns about local children remaining unprotected when they are not at school.

A forthcoming nuclear emergency exercise codenamed 'Kismet' is due to take

place at Devonport in November, but without any participation from the public.

Quote: "With a city the size of Plymouth, nuclear safety at Devonport should be second to none. But after 20 years of nuclear submarine operations, there is still no agreed or workable accident plan. At the meeting we will be asking some hard questions, such as ; how will children be protected ; why are Naval personnel deliberately untrained for nuclear accident emergencies ; what would happen if an accident happened in Plymouth Sound close to the city centre where no accident plans exist at all ; why are all residents at Torpoint across the River Tamar in Cornwall pre-distributed with Potassium Iodate Tablets, but not on the Devon side closer to the nuclear threat ; why are nuclear accident exercises conducted in secret with the exclusion of the public?" Kevin Owen Chairman DIG

DIG will also raise the important question of worker radiation dose rates and the possibility of past secret 'live' tests on the spread of radiation from nuclear submarines following the recent admissions about secret 'live' germ warfare tests conducted close to Devonport as recently as 1977.

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