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31/3/94

20 / **WORLD**

## French N-sub recalled after 10 die in blast

France last night recalled three nuclear-powered attack submarines after an accident that killed 10 sailors aboard a fourth submarine in the Mediterranean.

Rear-Admiral Philippe Roy said the other submarines were being called back to port because of unanswered questions about the accident yesterday on the 2,400-tonne Rubis class *Emeraude*.

The blast off the port of Toulon did not affect the submarine's nuclear engine. It was not carrying nuclear missiles and there was no risk of radiation, said spokesman Captain Olivier Lajous.

"One of the two turbo alternators, which generate electrical power on board, exploded while the submarine was off the coast. We don't know why," he said.

### Third incident

He said all 10 people were in the turbine compartment.

The vessel, launched in 1986, was taking part in a training exercise with other navy ships.

It was the third incident in less than a year involving one of France's six Rubis-class submarines, which are based in Toulon. Between two and four of them are constantly on patrol, armed with Exocet missiles.

One hit the bottom of the Mediterranean at low speed and another struck a supertanker.

● One man was killed and at least 61 people were injured when a heating and air-conditioning plant exploded near Paris yesterday, a rescue worker said.