

Report on submarines 7 December 2000

MoD has decided that the first repair will be carried out on HMS Turbulent in Devonport. This will be publicised on 10 Dec.

Diagnosis has not yet been completed.

Gibraltar experts have an ex-2IC of an SSN as an adviser and with him attending their meeting the MoD stance on towing has changed. They have admitted that the submarine is ready for towing and was ready for towing within a few days (22 May ?) of arriving in Gibraltar. The tow line would have to be attached to a pressure hull stub in the sail. For stability there would have to be another tug at the back.

The reason that the MoD initially decided to do the repair in Gibraltar is because they were desperate to have the vessel back at sea. It was the only submarine which was ready for operations apart from Triumph, and Triumph is running out of fuel. Tireless was fully armed and could have quickly returned to service.

Experts will meet MoD on 18 Dec and report to the Gibraltar government in 1st week of January.