

REPORTS OF DEFECT

Initial telephone calls Jan 90

"there are cracks around the watery legs paint work in PC in SG in both the SSN boats and Polaris boats and they don't know how to fix it ... (how dangerous?) we are talking about Chernovyl ... its too dangerous to talk around here"
(anon phone call to SCND between 24 and 29 Jan 1990)

"the boats will stay at sea and will be inspected when they come into port"
- MOD response 30 Jan 90
"fault discovered on Warspite, problem is in the steam generator" - sources Independent received anon phone call 26 Jan 90,
(Mark Urban, Independent, 31 Jan 90)

Letter to SCND 24 Oct 91

"As per my prior information re nuclear submarines which led to their withdrawal, further advise that reactor fractures while serious are secondary, the high hazard is final ^{were} coolant failures; thus the prior incident could have resulted in catastrophe, certainly in Clyde Basin"

Anonymous letter to SCND

Information passed to J McFall

Confidential information to be passed to defence committee (28 Nov), which has been passed to J McFall from authoritative sources. This indicates that three Resolution class have serious problems
"REVENGE had a crack in a pipe leading to the reactor pressure vessel when it returned from patrol in February and the same fault is 'highly likely' to have affected the other submarines" referred to as a simple design fault. Cracks caused by the same generic fault which has hit VALIANT / CHURCHILL SSN. (Rob Edwards, Scotland on Sunday 18 Nov 90)

Information from J McFall that 2 Resolution class submarines were out of action and there were serious problems with a third; problem is identical to that in SSN. REVENGE has been repaired after cracks were ground out, leaving pipe thinner than intended. RESOLUTION had not been inspected. Some experts described the repair as no more than a patch up job.
(Independent 19 Nov 90)

Other information

Crack on Resolution class sub (Daily Telegraph, 19 Nov 90)
Fault found in one Resolution class (J Langden, Daily Telegraph, 29 Dec 90)

"one cannot say with certainty when submarine availability will be restored to its maximum but I am fairly confident recovery can be achieved within a period of a couple of years or so" (re SSN HC 369 90/91 q 582)