

Dounreay waste

Sir, — This morning I listened with increasing incredulity and concern to a report on BBC Radio Scotland in which a Highland regional councillor described what he saw on a fact-finding visit to Dounreay. The councillor's description of how nuclear waste is casually scattered on the surface of Dounreay's waste pits beggars belief.

Like, I suspect, most members of the SNP, I am often asked why I wish to see an end to the Union; today Radio Scotland has provided me with yet another cast iron reason for arguing for Scottish independence.

What other country in Western Europe would allow such toxic material to be stored in such a capricious fashion; save poor old colonial Scotland? What other government in Europe would consent to such blatant poisoning of its countryside?

SC 9/4(9)
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Fears over A-sub faults

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THERE are mounting fears that five Scots-based nuclear submarines have major faults.

Now defence chiefs are said to be facing a crucial decision on whether to retire them early.

The Swiftsure class boats, based at Faslane on the Clyde, are Sceptre, Spartan, Splendid, Sovereign and Superb.

The *Mail* has been told that hairline cracks in the Splendid's primary coolant system have been discovered during her refit at Devonport.

All five subs have the same system for cooling their reactor core.

Work has already been carried out to correct the problem aboard Splendid — but senior Navy sources say it may never be fit for operational duty.

Last night a Navy spokesman at Faslane refused to comment.

Costly promotion

Sir, — Scottish Nuclear has been busy making an advertising film in this area. I am told that the finished product will run for one minute, and is likely to be first shown on or about 10 April. Fifty people and a number of large vehicles (including at one time a fire engine) were occupied for five days in making this film: it must have cost a lot of money.

Scottish Nuclear will no doubt say that it is spending its own money. But Scottish Nuclear is 100 per cent Government-owned. If it has money in the bank it is because it was given an interest-free present of £1.5 billion when the other electricity companies were privatised, and because a contract for the sale of its power was negotiated with Scottish Power when they were both Government-owned, on terms particularly favourable to Scottish Nuclear. In any case the money that it has belongs to the Government: it is public money.

Because of that contract, advertising can make no difference to the amount of power Scottish Nuclear sells. The purpose of its advertisements is to make us all think that nuclear power is a good thing!

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