

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SATURDAY 19 AUGUST 2000

FROM Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

TO Newsdesk

#### CONCERN ABOUT DAMAGE TO REACTORS ON KURSK

Scottish CND has expressed serious concern about the state of the two reactors on the sunken Russian submarine. Analysis in Norway of seismological data has suggested that the second explosion on the vessel could have been equivalent to 2 tonnes of TNT. Reports are that there is very extensive damage to the bow of the submarine.

If, as is likely, this second explosion occurred in the torpedo compartment then there would be colossal damage inside the pressure hull. The internal bulkheads would have given way before the twin hull. If this scenario is correct then it is likely that there was damage to the reactor.

"While the first priority is clearly to try to rescue any survivors from the Kursk, the next step must be to investigate the state of the nuclear reactor. We cannot take at face value Russian statements that it is safe."

said John Ainslie, Administrator, Scottish CND.

The Kursk lies in shallower water than the five other nuclear submarines on the seabed and so poses a more immediate radiation risk.

Tackling the nuclear wreck poses a major dilemma. Lifting the submarine would remove the reactor from the corrosion of the sea, but the reactor could be further damaged during the lift.

Scottish CND has produced a report on the nuclear hazards of the Kursk at:

[www.cndscot.dial.pipex.com/news/000817a.html](http://www.cndscot.dial.pipex.com/news/000817a.html)

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