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FROM Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

TO Newsdesk

LEGAL MOVES TO STOP NUCLEAR SUBMARINES

Scottish CND has asked a lawyer to act on their behalf in an attempt to prevent a nuclear submarine from returning to service.

On 21 October the Ministry of Defence announced that all 12 Swiftsure and Trafalgar class submarines would be withdrawn from service for checks on their reactors. On 1st November the Defence Minister Geoff Hoon announced that the HMS Triumph was clear of the flaw and would return to operational duties shortly. Scottish CND suspect that this decision was made on political grounds and that no inspection of the reactor of HMS Triumph could have taken place in the short time available.

Acting on behalf of Scottish CND, Phil Shiner of Public Interest Lawyers has written to Geoff Hoon asking him to confirm that HMS Triumph will not be returned to operational duties until written reports on its inspection have been made public.

Geoff Hoon referred to HMS Triumph being used in support of Trident and so it is likely that, if it is allowed to return to service, the submarine will sail into Scottish waters in the near future.

The same lawyers are working on behalf of residents of Gibraltar and are expected to be taking action soon to prevent the Navy from repairing the damaged nuclear submarine HMS Tireless in Gibraltar harbour. In October the Navy discovered that the cracks in its reactor were ten times larger than expected. Proposals to repair the submarine in situ have damaged relations between Britain, Spain and Gibraltar.

“Geoff Hoon is showing a callous disregard for public safety in ordering HMS Triumph back to sea without any inspection of its reactor. The Navy narrowly avoided a meltdown on one submarine, now they are sending its sister ship to sea without any proper checks”

Said Brian Quail, Joint Secretary, Scottish CND

For further information contact:

John Ainslie, Administrator, Scottish CND 0141 423 1222