



SCOTTISH CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

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Superintendent
RNAD Coulport
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24th August 1992

SAFETY OF NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

Dear Sir,

At midday on Sunday 23rd August it was observed that missiles were being loaded on or unloaded from HMS Repulse at the jetty at Coulport. At this time weather forecasts were warning the public that thunderstorms were likely later in the afternoon around the Glasgow area. A lightning storm passed over the Rossneath peninsula around 5.45 pm.

In the light of concern raised within the Oxburgh report about nuclear weapons safety I would like to know whether there are procedures which halt missile handling operations when thunderstorms are imminent and whether these procedures were implemented on Sunday 23rd August.

Yours sincerely,

John Ainslie
Administrator,
Scottish CND

Copies:

John McFall MP,
Cllr Iain Macdonald,
Emergency Planning Officer, Strathclyde Regional Council,
Chairman, Nuclear Weapons Safety Committee,
Chief Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Defence.