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The Armed Forces Minister, John Reid, suggests (7 May) that the veil has now been lifted from one of the most closely guarded secrets of the British military establishment - the safety of the reactors that power nuclear submarines at Faslane. Would that it were so !

The report on nuclear accident exercise Short Sermon which is in the public domain is not the full MoD report. Previous experience shows that there will be another report which goes into far more detail - but it will be classified and kept hidden from ordinary mortals.

The published report does not reveal how much radiation would have been dispersed into the atmosphere or which parts of Scotland would have been contaminated by an accident at Faslane. Had this been a civil nuclear exercise then these details would have been disclosed along with maps showing plumes of radiation crossing the country. So long as the MoD continues to hide the grim realities from the Scottish people it is only right and proper that they remain suspicious about the floating Chernobyls moored on the Gareloch.

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