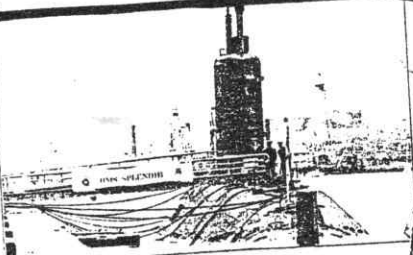


**IN DOCK:** HMS Splendid tied up alongside in Southampton.



IN DOCK: HMS Splendid tied up alongside in Southampton.

## Super sub is silent killer

EVERYTHING about HMS Splendid is silent.

By All Kestford

## Nuclear sub idea blasted as a risk

By Art Larkin

A CONTROVERSIAL scheme to bring a nuclear submarine into Southampton docks has been put on hold by council. The Royal Navy is preparing to site the nuclear reactor on board.

A detailed safety plan has been drawn up by the emergency planning unit at Southampton City Council to deal with possible leaks from the nuclear reactor on board.

Southampton-based anti-nuclear lobby group the city council in a meeting about the potential health and environmental risks associated with the scheme.

Project worker Dr McDermott said his nuclear plant in Winchester and the first power would also have to be prepared if there were an accident because of the sea breezes.

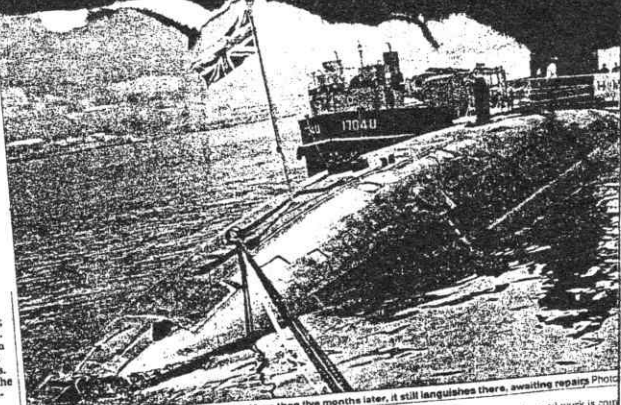


**Are you waiting for another Chernobyl before you do something?**

## Nuclear sub was hours from meltdown

### HMS Tireless How a 'minor defect' could have caused disaster

facturers, Rolls-Royce, is the submarine's "design authority". That is to say, the MoD monitors the submarines; the makers are not liable for any faults. Naval engineers are said to have been astonished to discover the problem on the Tireless turned out to be so serious. Equally alarmingly, navy sources say the splits in the pipes of the reactor's cooling system were discovered only because of new technology of which they had no previous experience.



HMS Tireless arriving at Gibraltar on May 19. More than five months later, it still languishes there, awaiting repairs. Photos that cracks had been found at the base of the nuclear reactor. The reactor is based on an American design. In July, John Spellar, British nuclear minister, told MPs: "The reactor will not begin until work is completed on one of its sister boats in Britain. Gibraltarians face the prospect of a nuclear submarine sitting off the coast of Gibraltar."

All British submarines are nuclear powered:  
**Vanguard ballistic missile Class:** Vanguard, Victorious, Vigilant, Vengeance. **Swiftsure Class:** Sovereign, Superb, Sceptre, Spartan, Splendid. **Trafalgar Class:** Trafalgar, Turbulent, Tireless, Torbay, Trenchant, Talent, Triumph.  
**"Z" Berths:** Bermuda, Diego Garcia, Falkland Isles, Gibraltar, Coulpport, Loch Goil, Rothesay, Isle of Skye, Loch Ewe, Barrow, Devonport & Plymouth Sound, Portsmouth & Spithead, Southampton **"X" Berths:** Faslane, Devonport & Plymouth Sound, Rosyth.

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

- that nuclear reactors powering British submarines regularly use the Z berth in Southampton Docks.
- that the Navy's Special Safety Scheme for a nuclear accident, the Sotonsafe Plan is kept in the Reference Library and that the Council refuse to send it out – even to local schools! \*
- that according to the Plan, the radiation released would be unlikely to reach beyond 550 metres from the submarine.<sup>1</sup>
- that independent experts say what matters is that a maximum radiation dose at *any* distance must be averted.<sup>2</sup>
- that at the two at-berth nuclear powered submarine reactor accidents in the former Soviet Union - one required evacuation up to 11km and the other required subsequent depopulation up to 30+ km.<sup>2</sup>
- that defects in British Trafalgar Class submarine reactors have resulted in all 12 being recalled for inspection in 2000.
- that signs of the flaw found in HMS Tireless in Gibraltar, were apparent in 7 out of 12 nuclear submarines (including HMS Splendid that used Southampton Docks in 2000)<sup>3</sup>
- that Southampton is the only commercial port with a Z Berth.

THERE ARE NOW AT LEAST 7 NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINES ON THE OCEAN BED AS A RESULT OF NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS. THE NEXT ONE COULD BE IN YOUR HARBOUR.

1. Royal Navy Special Safety Scheme 2. Independent Nuclear Expert 3. Navy News Dec. 2000

## **NO NUCLEAR REACTORS SHOULD USE CIVILIAN PORTS**

**CHERNOBYL 1986 !!!**

**HERE TOMORROW ???**

For further info contact: **Solent Coalition Against Nuclear Ships**  
tel/fax: 023 8055 4434 e-mail: [nis@gn.apc.org](mailto:nis@gn.apc.org)

\* if you would like a copy of the Sotonsafe Plan (p.120) £10, contact SCANS

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