

FAO: Jim Eadie, SNP

From: John Ainslie, SCND

Tel 041 339 4644

Fax 041 339 4684

## Fears over A-sub faults

*Sunday Mail*

*18/4/93*

*SM 18/4/93*

**T**HERE are mounting fears that five Scots-based nuclear submarines have major faults.

Now defence chiefs are said to be facing a crucial decision on whether to retire them early.

The Swiftsure class boats, based at Faslane on the Clyde, are Sceptre, Spartan, Splendid, Sovereign and Superb.

The *Mail* has been told that hairline cracks in the Splendid's primary coolant system have been discovered during her refit at Devonport.

All five subs have the same system for cooling their reactor core.

Work has already been carried out to correct the problem aboard Splendid - but senior Navy sources say it may never be fit for operational duty.

Last night a Navy spokesman at Faslane refused to comment.