

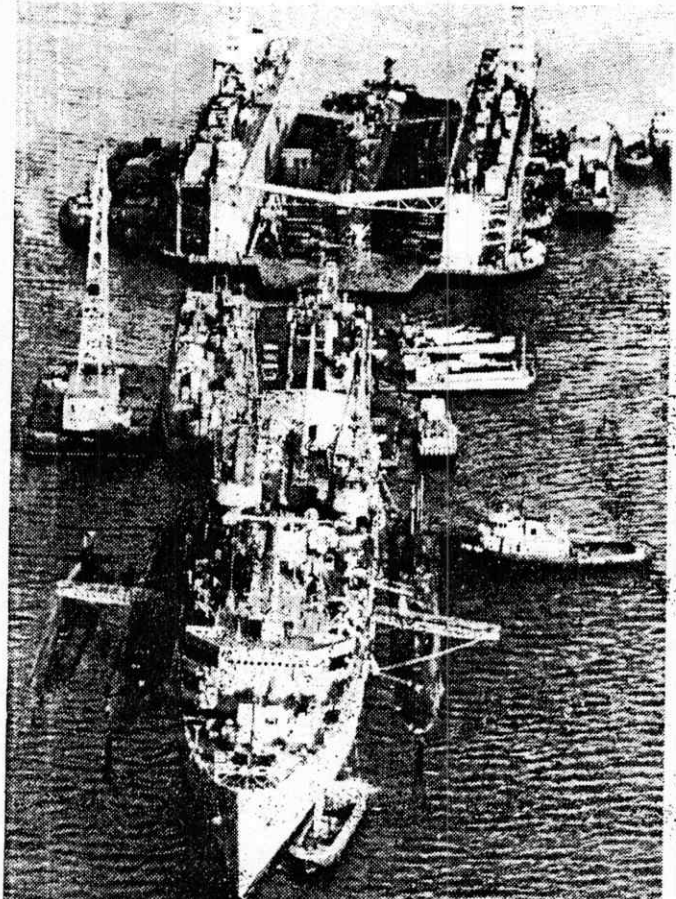
SUNDAY MAIL APRIL 15, 54.

10/15/54

# CAUGHT

in the  
act."

## FOUR Poseidon subs



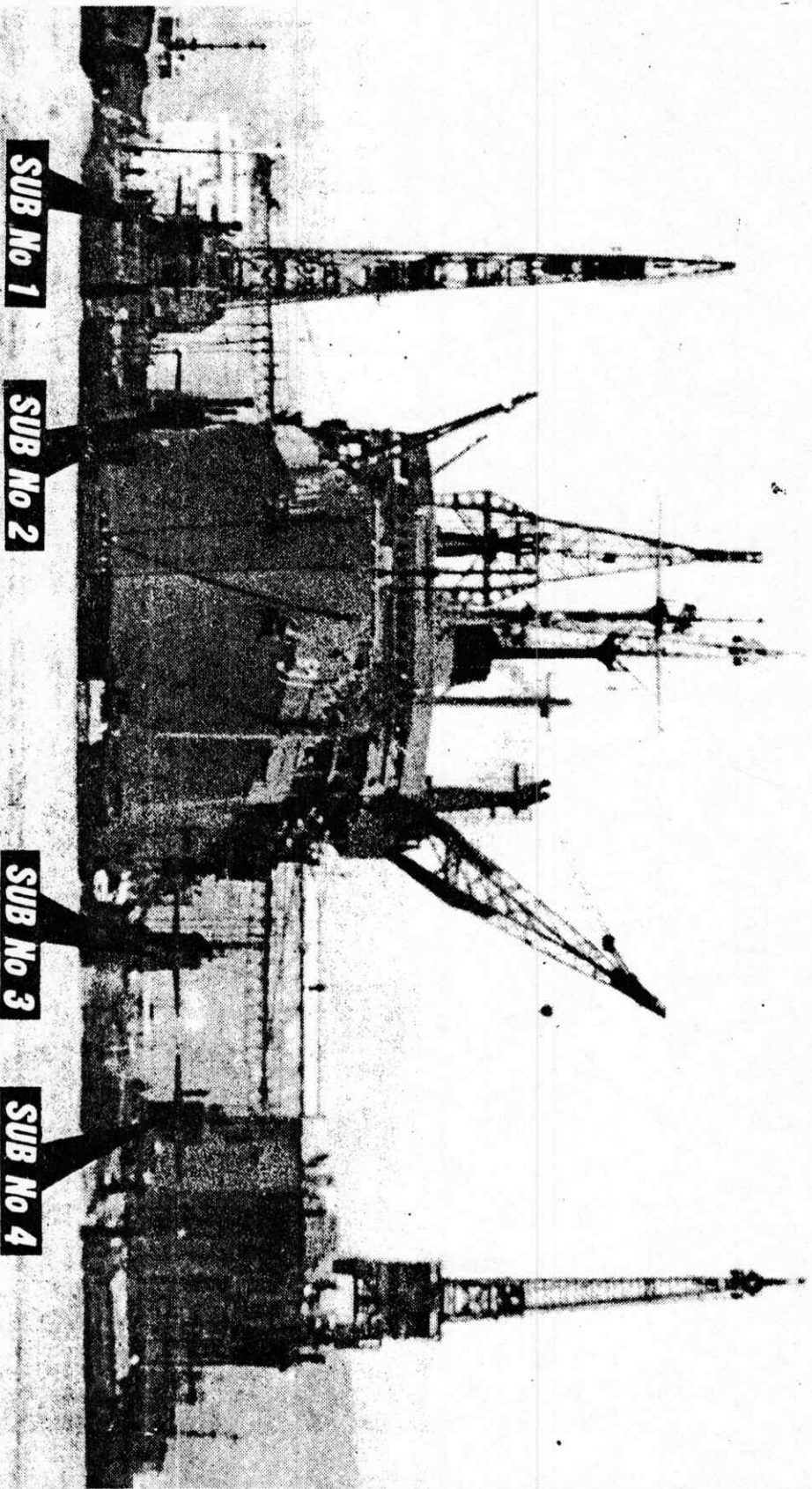
dock  
in the  
Holy  
Loch  
at  
once

Last week's picture... one Poseidon in the dry dock to the rear, two more beside the mother ship, and a nuclear-powered hunter-killer alongside.



SUNDAY MAIL EXCLUSIVE

# IN THE AGT!



1950



# Four Poseidon submarines in the Holy Loch together, alongside the USS Hunley... picture taken three months ago.

missile submarine bases overseas—in the Pacific, in Spain, and in the Holy Loch.

Now only the Holy Loch is still in operation.

There, 55 out of 60 possible sites were rejected as too built-up.

In the event of an explosion destroying the nuclear reactors or warheads of a submarine, the result would be a deadly radioactive fallout, carried on the wind.

Another committee hearing was told that the Pentagon required a submarine's 16 nuclear missiles to be unloaded before it could safely enter a US naval shipyard.

A US Congress report warned that such an accident might create a "cigar-shaped cloud extending for about 28 miles, with a maximum width of 2.5 miles."

Given the prevailing wind, an accident would create a massive radioactive disaster area in much of Glasgow and across all of the lower Clyde.

A Clyde local liaison committee has been set up to deal with nuclear reactor accidents. It includes officials from Strathclyde Council.

But the committee's functions consist almost entirely of rubber-stamping official proposals. The committee does not even get details of radiation levels in the Clyde area.

But a special manual, called the Clyde Public Safety Scheme, defines the tasks of the local committee, in case of an accident.

And an official warning announcement for such an occasion has already been written in advance, and copies given to BBC Scotland and ITV.

The atomic reactor of a nuclear submarine which is at present resulting in a small release of radioactive products. There is no hazard of an atomic explosion. A few people may be asked to move...

The announcement says:

We have been asked to make the following urgent announcement. There has been a slight accident in

Cynics might wonder how the Navy can be so sure of its facts in advance!

## CHEAP

But this rule "does not apply to sites abroad, which are remotely located."

The committee, which was considering closing down the Holy Loch, was told that it was quicker and cheaper to use the overseas sites to refit submarines because the irksome safety requirements did not apply abroad.

In the late 1970s, there were three ballistic

# OVER TO THE PENTAGON..

By NICK HUNTER

GETTING reaction to the "blast-zone danger" was easier said than done—despite the American Freedom of Information Act.

We first called the US Navy public affairs department in London.

There, Commander Erv Sharp said: "Why are you calling me? We have people up there. I'm not

very happy to speak to the Sunday Mail after the way you've been badgering our people up there."

you want to speak about policy matters that the US Navy has, you must address this to the Department of Defense."

At the Holy Loch base the telephone operator twice managed to lose the Sunday Mail connection with the Press office.

At the Department of Defense in the Pentagon, Lieutenant Commander Jim Leader said: "These questions will have to go through channels in writing. If you care to call back next week our Navy Desk may have the answers for you."

We'll be calling, Commander.



28/01/8  
wpmw

(CONT.)

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