

TWO INVESTIGATIONS FOLLOW LEAK

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"We welcome the announcement that the MoD is going to issue safety leaflets to local residents.

"However," he added, "we would warn the public against complacency as neither the fence around the base nor a leaflet is going to protect them from a real accident."

The major nuclear alert was sparked off after a pipe HMS Repulse's cooling system fractured spraying three sailors with water from the reactor.

They had to be decontaminated, but were found to have no trace of radioactivity.

But a row erupted after the incident on why there was "an over-reaction" by the Navy, and why local authorities were not informed.

Two inquiries are now underway at the Base - how the leak occurred and why a full alert was made.

A Base spokesman said that the inquiry into the initial spillage had been made, but the other investigation was still ongoing.

A meeting had been held with the local liaison committee attended by John McVicar, the Region's emergency planning officer, who said he was satisfied that he did not have to be informed about the incident which sparked off controversy.