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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
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ENV.C.1 - Radiation protection

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Mr John Ainslie
Scottish CND
15 Barrland Street
UK-GLASGOW G41 1QH

Subject: - Monitoring risks associated to nuclear powered submarines
- Identified defects in the reactor of HMS Tireless

Ref.: Your letter dated 14 November 2000

Dear Mr Ainslie,

I acknowledge receipt of your above-referenced letter to Mrs Wallström. She has asked me to reply on her behalf.

In your letter, you expressed your concern about a possible failure in the safety systems of British nuclear submarines in general, mentioning in particular that the defects of the HMS Tireless submarine may be likely to affect other nuclear submarines of the same type.

Your letter enclosed a copy of a letter sent the same day by your organisation to the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on the issue in which, among other points, you were urging for more transparency as well as for a stronger safety control and for a review of the risks for the public from nuclear powered submarines.

I wish to thank you for the information provided on this sensitive question. As you probably know, the Commission is pursuing the issue of the specific case of the "HMS Tireless" submarine, in response to a series of complaints and questions in the European Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen KAISER
Head of Unit