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Challenge on nuclear submarine fault

AN explanation of the fault in one of the Royal Navy's nuclear submarines which has led to an inspection of all five Valiant submarines was called for last night by John McFall, the Labour MP for Dumbarton, writes JOANNE ROBERTSON.

Mr McFall, whose constituency includes Faslane, told the Commons during a debate on the navy that three Valiant and three Resolution class subs were in port. He demanded that the problem with each submarine be clarified and made public, arguing that the cooling system in the Rolls-Royce turbo meant that "if there's a crack in one of them there's

a crack in all of them".

The armed forces minister, Archie Hamilton, in a written answer, said: "No submarines are being recalled from operational tasks. Following the recent discovery of a technical defect in one of our nuclear-powered submarines, all such vessels are, however, being inspected as a precautionary measure when they come alongside."

Roland Boyes, the Labour MP for Houghton and Washington, demanded that all Valiant subs be laid up immediately after saying he had learnt that the damage to the cooling system of Warspite might be irreparable.