

**Press release for immediate release**

**From** Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

**To** Newsdesk

**Hazards from Kursk**

Attached is a short report on the hazards from the sinking of the Kursk.

In normal circumstances the reactor would have been shut down slowly. Losing electrical supplies shortly after closing it down will have created risks. The reactor core is likely to contain between 1 and 3 tonnes of uranium with a half life of 710 million years. The inventory of the reactor is likely to be in the region of 1 per cent of that of the Chernobyl reactor, but it will be difficult to gain access to it.

If the accident was caused by a torpedo explosion this highlights a risk which is common to all nuclear submarines - the dangers of having a cocktail of nuclear material and explosives in a confined area.

Scottish CND has been involved in research into nuclear powered submarines for over a decade and is currently advising locals in Gibraltar about the proposal to repair HMS Tireless there.

For further information contact:

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[www.cndscot.dial.pipex.com/000815b.html](http://www.cndscot.dial.pipex.com/000815b.html)

**Press release for immediate release 17 August 2000**

**From:** Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

**To:**Newsdesk

**Serious concern about nuclear reactor on Kursk**

Scottish CND has produced an initial report on the nuclear aspects of the accident onboard the Kursk and this gives rise to serious concern.

Recent information suggests that the detonation of one torpedo triggered the detonation of several torpedoes in the bow of the submarine. The external damage was sufficient to sink the vessel. Most of the blast will have gone backwards and caused massive damage inside the submarine, making it unlikely that any message saying that the reactor was shut down could have been transmitted. It is also possible that the blast could have damaged the reactor itself and triggered fires in the aft of the Kursk.

The reactor in Kursk probably contains around 5 times the nuclear material on a British Trafalgar class submarine. Because it is in much more shallow water than the other 5 nuclear submarines on the seabed then the dangers to the food chain are greater.

Scottish CND has carried out research into nuclear submarine problems for over a decade and was recently advising local people in Gibraltar about the proposed repair there of HMS Tireless.

The report is at:

[www.cndscot.dial.pipex.com/news/000817a.html](http://www.cndscot.dial.pipex.com/news/000817a.html)

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