

Sunday Herald 12/11/00

### For the record

YOUR article implying that this government would allow nuclear submarines to return to sea if it was not safe for them to do so (November 5) is scaremongering of the worst order. To put the record straight, the UK nuclear submarine flotilla has a nuclear safety record second to none. We have an unblemished

operating history of over 40 years and our culture of safety first has ensured this record is maintained today. The unprecedented step of checking all our hunter-killer submarines, requiring two to return to the UK, is further evidence of our commitment to nuclear safety. HMS Triumph has undergone inspection to the satisfaction of our independent nuclear regulator. HMS Triumph would not be returning to sea if we were not entirely satisfied that it was safe for her to do so. Your talk of "saving face", "catastrophic failure" and "meltdown", when the lives of our crew and our responsibilities to the general public are concerned, is completely irresponsible.

**John Spellar MP**  
**Minister of State for the Armed Forces**