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Duncan Campbell follows  
up the Poseidon incident

## **Demand for probe into Holy Loch murk**

EIGHTY-FOUR MPs have called on the government to hold a full inquiry into the accident involving a Poseidon US nuclear missile at the Holy Loch Submarine base last month (*NS* 27 November 1980). In a series of motions submitted to the Commons last week by Frank Allaun, Stanley Newens and Robin Cook, the MPs expressed alarm at the nature of the accident and the 'failure of the United States naval authorities to make public any announcement or to provide timely notification of the accident to the police or local

authorities'.

They have also attacked the continuing use of 'unstable' nuclear warheads on the Clyde. A large proportion of the Poseidon nuclear missiles are still fitted with an explosive called LX09, probably the most dangerous substance the US has ever used in nuclear warheads, which is being replaced, but only slowly.

In the United States, the House of Representatives' Armed Services Committee has been asked to investigate the incident and the general problem of the warheads' stability. The congressman concerned, Ronald Dellums, and a small group of other Representatives have also been pressing for a freeze on nuclear weapons manufacture and deployment between the United States and the Soviet Union, pending new strategic arms talks. Although the initiative stands little chance of direct success, it has provided a popular focus for the growing US peace movement. □