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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Oral Questions B5-0554/2000 and B5-0555/2000

pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by Pedro Marset Campos, Laura González Álvarez, Salvador Jové Peres, Alonso José Puerta, Lucio Manisco, Joaquim Miranda, Efstratios Korakas and Andre Brie

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the presence of the submarine HMS Tireless in the port of Gibraltar

European Parliament resolution on the presence of the submarine HMS Tireless in the port of Gibraltar

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the British nuclear submarine HMS Tireless has been anchored in the port of the colony since 19 May this year, after a leak was discovered in the reactor cooling system, and it had already undergone repairs for three years,
 - B. whereas only four of the twelve submarines of this class are still in operation, which suggests that there are structural problems,
 - C. whereas the information supplied by the British authorities on the state of HMS Tireless was unclear and contradictory,
 - D. whereas the British authorities want to repair the submarine in Gibraltar, although British law prohibits work on nuclear reactors being carried out in this kind of port,
 - E. whereas by means of a simple administrative provision the British authorities have changed the qualification of the docks in the British colony, so that the repair can be carried out lawfully,
 - F. whereas the port of Gibraltar does not comply with the technical and safety specifications required to carry out this delicate task,
 - G. whereas the Bay of Gibraltar does not have a nuclear emergency and evacuation plan to be implemented in the event of danger,
 - H. whereas the leak in the cooling system could affect the population within 10 kilometres' radius of the submarine and the Campo de Gibraltar is a densely populated area,
1. Expresses its concern at the serious situation created by the presence of the submarine on the Rock;
 2. Deplores the lack of transparency shown by the British authorities and demands that they issue accurate and clear information to enable the appropriate safety measures to be taken;
 3. Considers it unacceptable that the port of Gibraltar should be qualified as suitable for the repair of nuclear submarines carried out by the British authorities, although the port lacks the characteristics required of ports in Britain carrying out such work;
 4. Deplores the fact that technicians from the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council were not authorised to inspect the parts of the submarine directly connected with the problem;
 5. Expresses total rejection of the idea that the submarine HMS Tireless should be repaired in the port of Gibraltar, since it does not meet the minimum conditions for such work;

6. Expresses its support for and solidarity with the representatives of civil society in both Gibraltar and the Campo de Gibraltar and the almost 250 000 people living in places neighbouring the Rock;
7. Calls on the British Government to transfer HMS Tireless to facilities suitable for carrying out the repairs, using a safe means of transport;
8. Calls on the British Government to announce the measures adopted to ensure the safety of the area;
9. Calls on the British Government to accept responsibility for the financial losses caused by the serious damage done to the tourist, environmental, industrial and economic image of the area by the submarine's presence in the area;
10. Calls on the Commission to exercise its powers with regard to health protection, information to the public and emergency plans, and to adopt appropriate measures to guarantee the safety of the population in the vicinity of Gibraltar;
11. Urges the Commission to ask the British authorities to adopt urgent measures to minimise both the risks linked to the HMS Tireless incident and those which may be inherent in other vessels in the same class;
12. Is in favour of the abolition of nuclear submarines as part of a process of worldwide disarmament, bearing in mind the environmental threat they pose, the general technical problems which have recently emerged and their lack of usefulness in the present context;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the representatives of the governments of the United Kingdom and Spain and the authorities of the Campo de Gibraltar.