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NEWS RELEASE

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RE-HEARING OF FORMAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE LOSS OF THE GAUL

The Wreck Commissioner has announced that he will sit for one further day in Hull on Friday 8 October 2004 in order to consider further evidence which has come to light since the original hearings earlier this year.

It is anticipated that the hearing will deal with the following:

1. Mr. Barron, who has identified himself since the hearings as being the former Chief Petty Officer whose anonymous statement had been sent to the Press, will be invited to give oral evidence to the Wreck Commissioner at the hearing.
2. Further evidence obtained from the Ministry of Defence will be put before the Wreck Commissioner concerning military exercises and deployment of Naval vessels and submarines at the time of the loss of the Gaul.
3. Statements obtained from the Chief Engineer of a Swedish vessel the "Anaris" which was in the Barents Sea in February 1974 will be placed before the Wreck Commissioner.
4. The Parties will have the opportunity to make submissions on the additional evidence.

Following this hearing the Wreck Commissioner will complete his report. It is anticipated that this will be published later this year