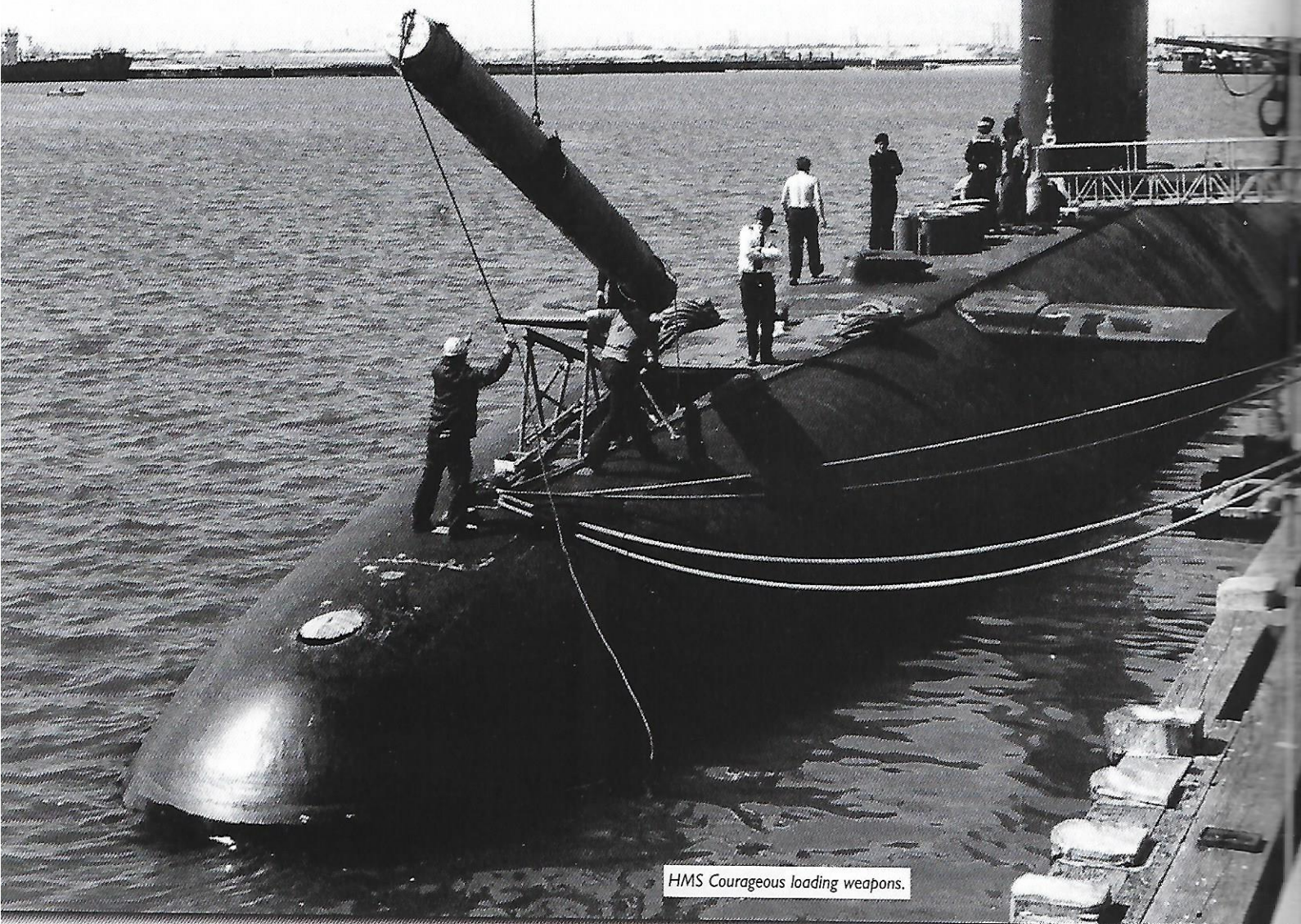


## HMS *Courageous* could be opened to the public as the Cold War centre at Devonport takes shape



HMS *Courageous* loading weapons.

**A** former nuclear hunter-killer submarine which is to be the centrepiece of a new Cold War museum in Plymouth could be opened to the public as early as next year - but a visitor centre could take up to a decade to finish. Those were the conclusions from a report into the feasibility of a Cold War centre in Devonport's South Yard, recently presented to the National Museum Royal Navy (NMRN) Board of Trustees.

The report, funded by around £40,000 in donations, has deemed that HMS *Courageous* is the most suitable submarine to be considered for long term preservation, while Bonaventure House in South Yard would be the best site for a visitor centre.

The following update is from the Cold War Centre and HMS *Courageous* November Newsletter...

In what is the most comprehensive piece of work yet done to examine the issues associated with the long term preservation of a nuclear submarine for display to the public, the study has employed rigorous analysis techniques and been peer reviewed by recognised experts in the field of submarine, nuclear, business and museum disciplines.

Working closely with MoD, Devonport Naval Base and other key stakeholders such as the *Courageous* Volunteer Group, the study has concluded that the project is both feasible and achievable. By tapping into the 5 million plus visitors to Plymouth each year, the study has demonstrated that a visitor attraction could be sustainable and of interest to a wide cross section of the public. In particular, a focus on STEM and support to the burgeoning blue-tech industries in Plymouth would give the Centre an important societal role.

In summary, it has concluded that:

- ☛ HMS *Courageous* is the most suitable candidate to be considered for long term preservation.
- ☛ I Dock together with Bonaventure House in South Yard, Devonport, would be the optimum location to house the Cold War Centre.
- ☛ *Courageous* could be dry docked in a restored I Dock within 4-5 years with no alterations required to the boat or dock.
- ☛ Once renovated, Bonaventure House would host the Devonport Historic Naval Collection alongside the Cold War Centre.

The conclusions were recently presented to the National Museum Royal Navy (NMRN) Board of Trustees. The Board was impressed with the work that had been done and agreed to support the first phase of an implementation programme that aimed to place *Courageous* in a permanent facility in I Dock, South Yard, with a visitor centre located close by in a