

**ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE**

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## Close look at future

THE future of the Royal Ordnance installation at Waltham Abbey will be "looked at closely" according to a visiting government minister.

Minister of State for defence procurement, Adam Butler MP, made his comments during a tour of four such sites in south-east England last week.

Unions at the Royal Ordnance Research and Development Establishments had expressed their concern over the future role and the prospects of a reduction in the number of RARDE sites.

The minister said that with the emphasis on transferring development work to pri-

vate industry, RARDEs would have to concentrate on research.

As far as the closure of sites was concerned, there were no immediate developments likely but in the long term sites, including the one at Waltham Abbey, would be looked at closely.