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CIA Will Let Soviet Sub Lie

Washington

The Central Intelligence Agency has abandoned plans to raise a sunken Soviet submarine because the site of the wreck is now patrolled by Russian signal vessels, senior intelligence officers said yesterday.

Thus ends in failure a \$250 million project to recover nuclear warhead missiles and code books carried by the submarine when it sank in the Pacific 750 miles northwest of Hawaii in 1968.

In recent briefings before the Senate and House intelligence committees, William E. Colby, head of the CIA, and Carl Duckett, chief of the CIA's Directorate for Science and Technology, attributed the agency's inability to complete the mission to disclosure by the news media.

After the disclosures, they said, the Soviet navy has patrolled the site with a vessel to signal if any ships return to salvage. The United States would face a confrontation with the Russians if it attempted an overt salvage of one of their vessels, intelligence sources have said.

The submarine was to have been salvaged by the Glomar Explorer, the ship that was built and commissioned under the guise of a deep sea mining research vessel for Howard R. Hughes, the billionaire industrialist.

In the summer of 1974 the Glomar found the submarine and began to raise it. However, as the submarine neared the surface, it broke apart. The portion recovered contained the bodies of many of the crew, but no warheads or code materials.

New York Times

Fuller story filed CIA (a).