

CIA May Have Retrieved Soviet Sub's A-Weapons

Washington

The Central Intelligence Agency is believed to have recovered at least two nuclear warheads from torpedoes it retrieved last summer when it raised part of the hulk of a sunken Soviet submarine.

The nuclear-tipped torpedoes, according to sources, were in the third of the submarine raised from the floor of the Pacific by the Howard Hughes mining vessel Glomar Explorer, which spent parts of last June, July and August attempting to salvage a Soviet submarine

that sank northwest of Hawaii seven years ago.

It is not known which pieces of the submarine were lifted from the ocean floor by the Glomar Explorer, but it would have to be the aft or forward part of the Explorer to have recovered torpedoes. Soviet submarines of the Golf (a NATO designation) class that sank are fitted with ten torpedo tubes, six in the bow and four in the stern.

Retrieval of the torpedoes would be regarded by the CIA as a major intelligence victory. It would verify for the first time that Soviet submarines were carrying nuclear torpedoes. More important, it would give U.S. weapons experts a chance to examine and analyze a Soviet nuclear warhead.

Meanwhile, one report was being circulated by intelligence sources on the fringe of the CIA that the Glomar Explorer had in fact retrieved the entire lost submarine, not just one third of it. This report had the Glomar Explorer bringing up so many pieces of the lost boat that they represented just about all of the 2800-ton submarine.

If true, this would mean the CIA recovered the warheads on the torpedoes, the warheads on the three ballistic missiles the submarine carried and the code machine that unscrambled all the secret naval messages the submarine would have received.

The same code machine

MAR 21 1975
Reagan Hits Coverage of Sub Story

St. Louis

Ronald Reagan criticized the news media as "irresponsible" for disclosing efforts by the Central Intelligence Agency to raise a sunken Russian submarine.

Reagan, a member of the panel investigating reported domestic spying by the CIA, told a news conference that the possible raising of the submarine gave the United States a "great opportunity" to learn something of the capability of the enemy.

He said the United States was hurt when the effort was made public and said the media should have shown some ethics in not reporting the story.

United Press

SFChronicle MAR 21 1975
CIA Asked to Help Recover Plane

The Central Intelligence Agency was asked by a San Jose attorney yesterday to send its sub-hunting Glomar Explorer on a humanitarian mission to Tahiti to bring up a Pan American, World Airways 707 that crashed in the Pacific in July, 1973.

If the Glomar Explorer could recover a section of Russian submarine from a depth of 17,000 feet, then it could easily raise the plane from its grave at 3300 feet, said William A. Jennings.

Jennings, a former Air Force pilot and attorney who specializes in air crash litigation, said the bodies of about 70 passengers and crewmen are in the wreckage of the plane, which crashed some 2200 yards off Papeete shortly after takeoff on July 22, 1973.

He is representing the family of Isle Leman of Los

Gatos — one of 22 Northern Californians killed in the crash — in a \$5 million suit against the Boeing Co., manufacturers of the plane.

In his telegram to CIA Director William E. Colby, Jennings noted that "recovery of the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder in the tail of the aircraft will be helpful in determining the probable cause of the crash."

"The assistance of the CIA in this humanitarian effort, as well as in the interests of aviation safety, is welcomed," Jennings said.

The attorney advised the CIA director that he has received permission from the French government for the Glomar Explorer to raise wreckage and assurances of coordination from the National Transportation Safety Board's Bureau of Aviation Safety.

presumably could be used to decode other military messages the Soviet Union had sent during the decade that began in 1960, which was the most intense period of the Cold War. It included the U-2 affair, the building of the Berlin wall and the Cuban missile crisis.

Sources said it was their understanding that the Soviet Union had already assumed that the Glomar Explorer was able to retrieve the entire lost submarine, not just a piece of it. Thus, the Soviets would have to assume that the United States has gained an unusual insight into Soviet weapons design and may have found a way of decoding secret Soviet messages.

In another development yesterday, Senator Frank Church said there is a possibility the Senate's special intelligence committee may subpoena Hughes in connection with its investigation of the submarine recovery try.

One source said that Soviet trawlers followed the Glomar Explorer each time it put to sea from a Hawaiian port and were actually around it when the Explorer located the Soviet submarine and attached cables to it for the first time. This source said the trawlers left even as the Explorer was grappling to raise a piece of the lost submarine.

Washington Post