

## Submarine Project Affects Big Powers At Sea-Law Meeting

NYTimes MAR 20 1975

Special to The New York Times

GENEVA, March 19—The secret American attempt to raise a sunken Soviet nuclear submarine will undercut the major powers' demand at the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference for the unfettered right to conduct scientific research in the oceans, a leading spokesman for the developing countries said today.

"The developing countries have been arguing on the basis that espionage is the real reason why the major powers seek complete freedom for scientific research," Christopher W. Pinto of Sri Lanka said. "Now that this is confirmed, they can be more forceful."

Mr. Pinto has been playing a major role at the 137-nation conference, which resumed Monday. He said that the success of the conference, which is attempting to draft a world charter to govern use of the seas and the exploitation of their resources would depend on achieving "a collection of trade-off." The major powers reject such demands of the developing countries as prior notification research activities and participation of their nationals, he added.

The poorer countries suspect, Mr. Pinto explained, that the great powers argue that there must be no hindering of scientific progress "simply to cover espionage activities to be carried out at will."

The disclosure of the Central Intelligence Agency's attempt to salvage the Soviet submarine in the mid-Pacific "bound to complicate the negotiations," he said, "but I do not think it is disastrous." *N.*