Report on Warheads Is Denied

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A report that the Central Intelligence Agency is believed to have recovered two nuclear warheads from torpedoes aboard a sunken Russian submarine was denied yesterday by Los Angeles Times sources

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The Times first disclosed on Wednesday that recoery of a portion of the submarine in the Pacific last summer by the Hughes Glomar Explorer revealed evidence that it carried not only nuclear - tipped torpedoes but also Polaris - type missiles.

Commenting on a Washington Post report that the torpedoes themselves were recovered in a portion of the submarine raised from an ocean depth of three miles, the Times source said:

"From the remains of what was recovered, there is clear evidence that two nuclear - tipped torpedoes were aboard. But the warheads were not recovered."

The Times' source also denied another aspect of the Washington Post story, that which claimed persons on the fringe of fhe recovery operation last July north of Hawaii claimed the entire Golf - class submarine was recovered in bits and pieces. If true, this would have permitted the CIA to exazine not only two nuclear torpedoes, but three Russian ballistics missiles and a code machine used to unscramble secret Soviet messages. But The Times source said the report was erroneous.

Los Angeles Times