

New Secret Plunge For Glomar Explorer

Los Angeles

The mystery-shrouded Glomar Explorer and its submersible barge, used to recover parts of nuclear-tipped torpedos from a sunken Russian submarine last year, will begin another secret adventure off Santa Catalina island tomorrow, it was disclosed yesterday.

A spokesman for Global Marine Co., which operates the deep-sea recovery vessel, confirmed that the ship will conduct nine days of tests near the Isthmus of Catalina but declined comment on its mission or whether the exercise is connected with any government project.

The Glomar carried out an experimental mission off the same island last May. At that time, the barge HMB-1 submerged about 400 yards offshore in about 125 feet of water.

There was speculation then that a new type of recovery claw was being tested.

The Los Angeles Times

learned last April that when the barge attempted to raise the Russian submarine from a depth of 17,000 feet in July of last year, all but a 38-foot section broke away from the claw then in use.

There have been reports that the Glomar and the barge would return to the site 750 miles north of Hawaii this summer and attempt to recover the rest of the submarine, which sank in 1968.

However, Representative Bob Wilson (Rep-Calif.), a member of the CIA subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, said last month that the CIA has shelved any plans to recover the rest of the submarine because "the Soviets know the location . . . and have naval units in the vicinity."

Although the Glomar is operated by Global Marine, its ownership is as mysterious as its missions. According to some sources, it is owned by the CIA. But the Los Angeles county assessor believes it is owned, at least in part, by Howard Hughes' Summa Summa Corp.

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