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New Mission For Glomar Reported

San Diego

The U.S. intelligence ship Glomar Explorer, which salvaged part of a Soviet submarine from the Pacific Ocean floor in 1974, is expected to remove and destroy Soviet sensors planted in the seabed near the Navy-owned San Clemente Island, the San Diego Evening Tribune reported yesterday.

The newspaper said the sensors were planted by Soviet submarines in an area the U.S. Navy will use in tests of its new Trident strategic missile.

San Clemente island is part of the Pacific missile range about 50 miles west of San Diego. The Tribune said the range will be used for underwater launch tests of the Trident, a ballistic submarine missile with a 4000-mile range.

The Soviets could have used sensors or monitors planted in the seabed to track the missiles during the tests, the Tribune said.

The tests are expected to take place within the next four months.

U.S. Navy headquarters here had no comment on the Tribune story.

The Glomar Explorer, using a huge claw contained in the barge, grappled a Soviet submarine lying three miles deep on the floor of the Pacific ocean last summer and succeeded in bringing up a third of it.

United Press