

Navy Fund Reported Diverted to Glomar

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By United Press International

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22—The Central Intelligence Agency diverted more than half a billion dollars from Navy research, including vital antisubmarine warfare programs, in its effort to raise a sunken Soviet nuclear missile submarine from the Pacific Ocean, a maritime magazine reported today.

The costs given by the magazine for the project, which sought unsuccessfully to retrieve the ship's missiles and codes, were more than 25 percent higher than previous estimates. Well placed sources confirmed that Navy funds had been used, but refused to discuss the amounts involved.

Sea Technology, a publication concerned with maritime design and engineering, said in its March issue, "An attempt to raise a Russian Golf class sub-

marine in the Pacific northwest of Hawaii was financed by the United States Navy under orders from higher echelons despite official opposition."

The recovery attempt, code-named Operation Jennifer, was made two years ago using a salvage ship called the Glomar Explorer, which was constructed under disguise for the C.I.A. by Howard R. Hughes, the reclusive billionaire industrialist.

The cover story about the salvage vessel was that she would mine manganese nodules from the sea floor. Sea Techno-

logy said the ship, now berthed at Long Beach, Calif., can be converted to perform such a mission.

"We have now learned that a quiet move is under way to lease the ship to a consortium of companies that would use it for experimental recovery of nodules," the magazine said.

"Officially, the ship is now acknowledged to belong to the United States Government. Its use for commercial purposes would again open up the question of whether it is taxable or not."

The Los Angeles County assessor had sought to collect \$7.5 million in taxes on the ship, contending she belonged to Mr. Hughes's Summa Corporation, but last month a Federal judge recognized the Government's claim of ownership.

The C.I.A. abandoned its recovery effort because the site of the wreck is now patrolled by Soviet vessels.

The Sea Technology report

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said that the Navy opposed the recovery project "from the beginning as being too expensive, but the C.I.A. went ahead with building the Glomar Explorer under the aegis of Howard Hughes's Summa Corporation."

From Research Funds

"ThenU(the Navy] had salt rubbed into its wounds when it was decreed that most of the funding for the project would come from the Navy's Research, Development, Test and Evaluation funds," it said. "Those funds were cut \$550 million over three years. That helps explain why some of the antisubmarine warfare RDT&E activities were altered or deferred."

Neither the Navy nor the C.I.A. would comment on the magazine's report.

An official with knowledge of the project, however, said: "I'm not going to talk about dollars, but it would be silly for me to deny that the Navy was involved in the financing.

However, to say that the money came from ASW [antisubmarine warfare] is not entirely accurate."

Previous estimates have placed the cost of Operation Jennifer at \$250 million to \$350 million.

The project was undertaken after Navy underwater detectors recorded the explosion and sinking of a Soviet diesel-powered submarine in the summer of 1968 some 700 miles northwest of Hawaii.

In July 1974 the Glomar Explorer began raising the craft from a depth of 16,000 feet. About half way up, the submarine broke in half and only the forward section was recovered.

Load of Spare Ribs Stolen

CHICAGO, Feb. 22 (UPI) — Thieves stole a truck loaded 36,000 pounds of spare ribs today, the police said. The truck driver, Granson Smith, said his truck disappeared while he paid a visit to his sister on the South Side. The ribs were valued at \$40,000.