

We hope to secure agreement

proposed currency control Replaces

monetary system, which would give Prout.

Pentagon admits sub in net was American

GH
17,287

THE Pentagon last night confirmed that a submarine trapped in a trawler's fishing net in the Irish Sea was American.

The trawler was towed backwards for more than 10 miles.

"The indications are that it was one of ours. We are investigating the matter now," the source was quoted as saying.

The trawler skipper claims he has proof it was an American submarine.

Safely back at his home port of Portavogie, Co. Down, after cutting the lines to his nets, Mr Eric Cullley showed off a large black torpedo-like object thought to be a piece of sonar or radar equipment.

The skipper of the 57-foot Summer Morn said: "I'm sure it was an American submarine — that thing has American markings on it."

ITV's News at Ten last night showed film of equip-

ment attached to a cable seaweed.

On the cable were the words Naval Electronics Systems Command, Mfd by Spears Associates Inc., Norwood, Mass.

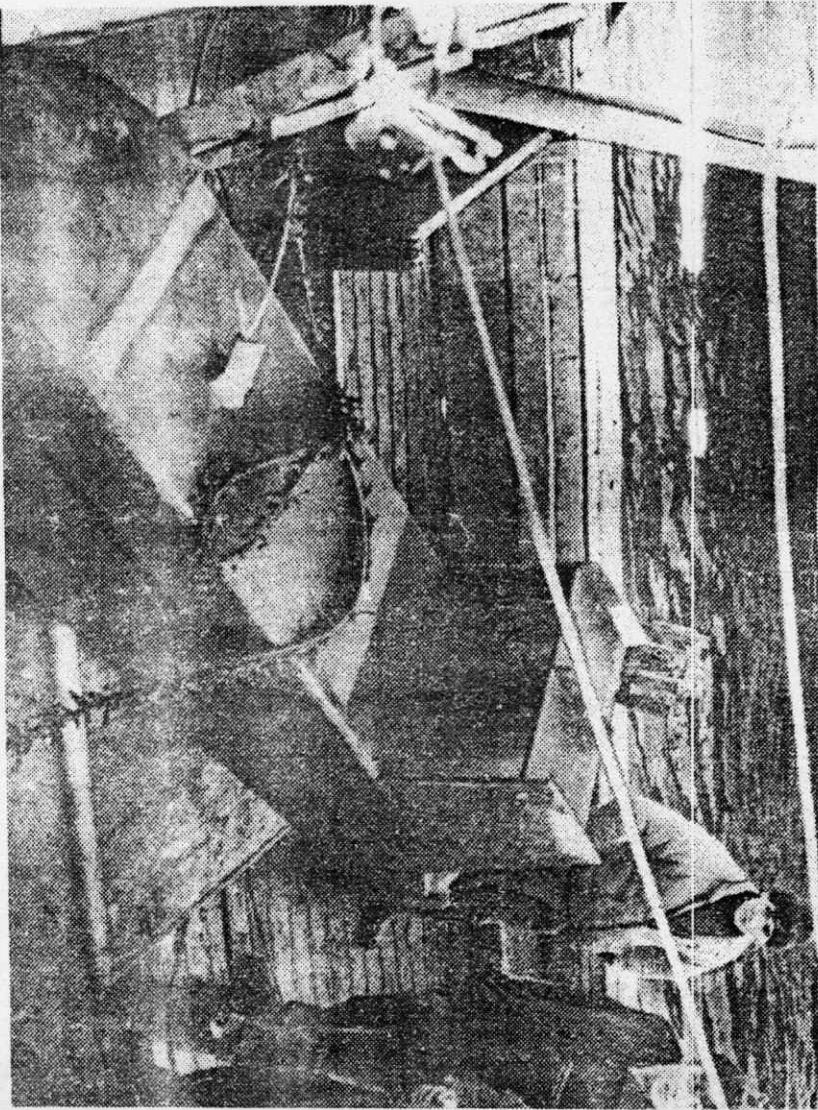
The letters US were stamped in one corner.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman in London said there were no British submarines operating in the area.

A spokesman at the American nuclear submarine base at Holy Loch said: "All that we are allowed to say is that we don't discuss our submarine operations."

Mr Cullley was handed a receipt by what was believed to be a Royal Navy officer for the 10ft. long object. It had a bulbous nose and a fin on its upper side.

The man, accompanied by an RUC officer, arrived immediately the Summer Morn docked.



The torpedo-like object which surfaced after the trawler's brush with a submarine

At first the Ministry of Defence denied knowing anything about the equipment caught in the trawler's net, nor of any Royal Navy officer inspecting it.

But last night a Ministry spokesman admitted the RUC had requested the help of the Royal Navy when the equipment was brought ashore.

The equipment was in the process of being identified but the spokesman confirmed it was not British.

Before leaving to make a statement to the authorities, Mr Cullley spoke of the three-hour ordeal. He said: "I had no idea there was a sub in the area.

It caught in the nets and towed us for miles, never surfacing.

"Things happen so fast, but we were all scared of being dragged under."

He said they managed to cut the cable on one of the nets, but could do nothing with the second. It was so taut, they risked being

cut in two by whiplash if they had tried.

They were towed, he said, at three and a half knots from their fishing grounds of the Isle of Man in a southerly direction. Eventually, the submarine altered course slightly and speeded up and, said Mr Cullley, they had to cut free "or go under."