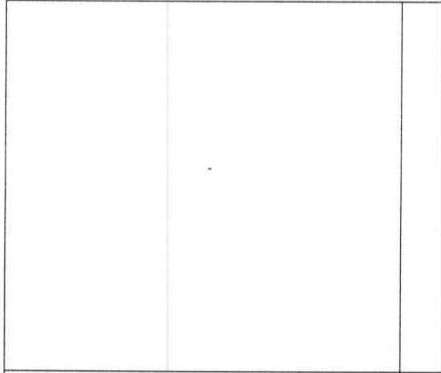


## **Analysis: No evidence of tapping**

But the U.S. analysis indicated there was no evidence to support the claim of tapping, even in the early stages of the rescue effort, according to a U.S. official familiar with the intelligence reports.



**From: CNN Submarine Rescue Message Board**

**<<http://community.cnn.com/cgi-bin/WebX?13@@.eeb3f83>>**

**"**

Officials cited data gathered by two U.S. submarines and a U.S. Navy surveillance ship that were monitoring the large-scale Russian military exercise when the Kursk sank.

Those ships listen to the undersea environment using high-tech equipment capable of recording "acoustic events" that occur even hundreds of miles away.

## **U.S.: Two distinct explosions**

The U.S. analyst said there were two distinct explosions detected by the monitors early Saturday (Washington time). The explosions were seconds apart and the second blast was notably larger than the first, according to the source.

Russian officials have offered a variety of reasons for why the Kursk sank. Early on, they said the giant submarine -- one of the newest and biggest in the Russian fleet -- had collided with another ship. Later they said an explosion occurred as torpedoes were being fired in a training mission. Added to that Wednesday was speculation that the ship may have hit a World War II mine.

Russia said the nuclear reactors aboard the Kursk were shut down when water flooded the front of the vessel as it went down. The navy said there are no nuclear weapons aboard the submarine, which is capable of carrying 24 nuclear-tipped missiles.