

Subject: The Cold War Never Ends. . . Maybe

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From: chgoilbo <chgoilbo@mcs.net>

Organization: chgoilbo

Newsgroups: sci.military.naval

I do not know if this has already been posted but, here goes:

Monday, November 24, 1997

RUSSIAN SUB TESTS U.S. NAVY--Approached carriers off Pacific Coast

Chicago Sun Times Wires : Washington

A Russian attack submarine armed with cruise missiles has been caught tracking American aircraft carriers in the Pacific, a senior military official said Sunday.

U.S. officials monitored the nuclear-powered submarine as it maneuvered in international waters off the coast of Washington state in September.

The *Pekov*, a Russian Oscar II-class guided-missile submarine was spotted late this month at the same time the USS *Constellation* returned from an overseas tour in the Western Pacific, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

At one point, it would have been able to sink the *Constellation* off Seattle, one report said Sunday, although the Navy claims it was hunting the sub and would have destroyed it before it was in range of American surface ships.

"The United States knew about it. It was tracked," the official said of the Russian vessel. "There was no danger" to the carrier, he said.

Nevertheless, the fact that Russia has been testing one of its most potent and sophisticated weapons against America has raised concern at the Pentagon.

It has briefed the Senate and House of Representatives intelligence committees.

"This incident raises very important questions about what the Russians are up to,"

Rep. Norm Dicks of Washington, the senior Democrat on the House committee, told the *Washington Times*.

The *Washington Times*, reported in its Sunday editions that the sub also cruised off the Washington coastline and practiced attack operations against the USS *Carl Vinson* during that carrier's training mission.

The newspaper said the sub shadowed the USS *Nimitz* before returning to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy on Nov. 1.

Dicks (D-WA) told the *Times* that he'd like Congress to hold oversight

hearings on
the incident because it raises a number of serious concerns.

"We're going to have to reconsider how we're operating these carriers from a defensive perspective," Dicks said.

The Pekov, based in the Russian Far East, first showed up on the U.S. underwater detectors near the Gulf of Alaska, and was tracked southward as it moved toward Washington's Puget Sound.

At that point, it appears that U.S. searchers lost it. The Pekov set off from its base to get to the American coast before the Constellation, which was returning from Japan. There it waited for the carrier until it arrived off Seattle on Sept. 20.

It then lurked off the coast practicing attack maneuvers against the Carl Vinson and dogged the USS Nimitz.

END OF ARTICLE

I have several questions about the above article that I hope people at this group can enlighten me about.

--Why this sudden concern about the CIS Navy, especially since the Western media said it is rusting in port? I am a little weary that this is coming from the Washington Times but, still this type of story is usually tight lipped in the Navy, why broadcast it now?

--Is this our tit-for-tat for the Russian support to the Iraqis? I know, I know, pure speculation; however, the timing of this story is too much for me.

--What is Russia up to, are they crazy! I thought they need our financial support. Do they need to show to prospective countries willing to buy Russian hardware that their weapons 'still have what it takes'? What other explanations can you think of.

--Any Navy funding hearings coming up soon?

--How good is the Oscar-II and its armaments?

--I guess since Iraq is out and the USA is 'cozy' with China, time to paint the Bear as bad. . .again.

Until next time, bracket this post with all your pleasure.

Peter Lee