

Good evening.

The open seas have become the latest breeding ground for tension between the United States and the Soviet Union. In the Sea of Japan this morning an American aircraft carrier and a Soviet submarine ran into each other. The carrier Kitty Hawk was on maneuvers with South Korean ships, the submarine was apparently shadowing the Kitty Hawk at the time of the collision. None of the Kitty Hawk's crew was injured and there was no apparent damage to either ship. It is political damage which matters. Half way around the world off the coast of Nicaragua, a Soviet oil tanker was damaged by a mine on Tuesday, five Soviet sailors were injured and now the Soviets are blaming the United States for laying the mines using anti-Nicaraguan forces to do so. In Washington, here's ABC's Barrie Dunsmore.

BARRIE DUNSMORE

The Soviet Embassy's number two man Oleg Sokolov came to the State Department today to offer Moscow's stinging protest over the Nicaraguan mine incident and to hear the US response.

OLEG SOKOLOV

And the responsibility for this high act of piracy and international terrorism. What's happened near the borders in the area of Nicaragua rests with the United States government.

BARRIE DUNSMORE

In Moscow, Foreign Minister Gromyko also called it a grave crime, however the State Department rejected the protest saying the mines had been well advertised while suggesting the Soviets themselves were to blame.

ALAN ROMBERG

These regional dangers and tensions result from Soviet encouragement of conflict in Central America and the Caribbean and therefore the Soviets are hardly in a position to blame others for an increase in violence there.

BARRIE DUNSMORE

The incident took place here in the Nicaraguan harbor of Puerto Sandino. As the Soviet tanker Lugansk was approaching the port, it struck a mine, damaging its hull and seriously injuring five Soviet seamen. The CIA-backed forces in Nicaragua openly claim they mined the harbor. The American rationale that