

the mines had been widely advertised would not likely have been found acceptable if the shoe had been on the other foot, however beyond this incident the sharp Soviet attack and the rather cavalier US response suggest that US-Soviet relations even with the change of leadership in Moscow are not getting any better. Barrie Dunsmore, ABC News, the State Department.

PETER JENNINGS

One other note about Soviet ships far from home. A Soviet task force has now passed through the Windward Passage off Cuba. There are four ships including the aircraft carrier Leningrad and a submarine. It is still not clear which Cuban port if any the task force intends to visit.

Well as we mentioned the American aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk and a submerged Soviet nuclear submarine collided in the Sea of Japan this morning. No apparent injuries and no apparent damage. The Navy is accustomed to this kind of high seas cat and mouse game. As our Pentagon correspondent John McWethy reports, we play the same game--not only with potential adversaries, but with our allies as well.

JOHN MCWETHY

ABC News has learned that American submarines are repeatedly violating the territorial waters of other nations while gathering intelligence. Most of the top secret missions are into the waters of the Soviet Union, but according to both active duty and retired military sources, some missions have been run into the territorial waters of those nations considered friendly to the US. Even friendly countries, sources say, sometimes do things they don't want the US to know about, things that could inadvertently threaten American security. The missions are conducted by specially equipped nuclear powered attack submarines and in some cases by a nuclear powered minisub called NR-1. (MINI-SUB) It has a seven man crew, wheels on its underside for crawling along the bottom and is described by the Navy as a research vessel. Why does the US knowingly violate other countries' territorial waters? Military sources say there are three primary reasons. (SUB SPYING) One, to gather information on underwater coastal and harbor defenses, thus gauging a country's ability to detect intruders. Two, to plant listening buoys in key waterways. And three, to gather first hand intelligence on new ships, particularly submarines and missile launchers from the sea. It would not be considered unusual, according to one source, for an American submarine to be lying on the bottom of the White Sea near Murmansk well inside Soviet waters when a