

NUCLEAR DUMPING

Pollution fear from sunken submarine

Six Dutch, Norwegian and U.S. scientists are taking part in a Russian investigation to establish if two warheads aboard a wrecked nuclear submarine are leaking plutonium. The two month expedition is the first step in cleaning up nuclear waste dumped around Russia's shores



Solid and liquid radioactive waste sites

Position of submarine Komsomolets

NORWEGIAN SEA

①

BARENTS SEA

Novaya Zemlya

ARCTIC OCEAN

BERING SEA

⑥

SEA OF OKHOTSK

SEA OF JAPAN

⑦

Fear of plutonium leak from torpedoes

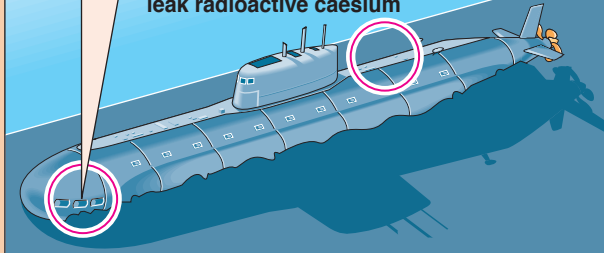
Two 533mm torpedoes with 10kg plutonium warheads damaged when submarine hits ocean floor

Outer torpedo tube doors open to the sea



Robot camera shows corrosion on inner torpedo tube doors

Nuclear reactors could leak radioactive caesium



Russia's nuclear waste dumps

1. The sinking of the submarine Komsomolets in 1989.

Plutonium from warheads threatening rich fish spawning ground. Lying 498km off Norway at a depth of 1,680 metres

2. Abrosimova Bay. Eight submarine reactors dumped 1966, depth 20m.

Stepovogo Bay. Two reactors dumped 1981, depth: 50 metres

3. Novaya Zemlya depression. One reactor, depth: 300 metres



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4. Tsivolki Bay. Three reactors from Nuclear Icebreaker Lenin, 1967, depth: 50 metres

5. Techeniya Bay. Two reactors dumped 1988, depth: 40 metres

6. Bering Sea. Two reactors, depth: 3,000m

7. Sea of Japan. Reactor parts, depth: 2,500m