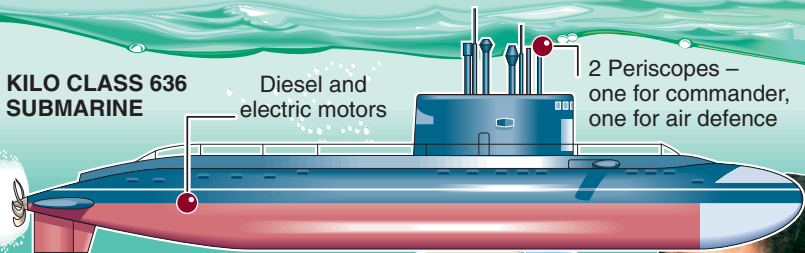


# Chavez seeks Russian submarine deal

President Hugo Chavez is expected to buy at least five submarines from Russia in a £500m deal that would make Venezuela the country with the biggest submarine fleet in Latin America. Analysts say Venezuela wants the submarines to thwart any possible future trade embargo by the U.S.



Length: 73.8m

Beam: 9.9m

Displacement: 2,350 tonnes

Submerged speed: 20 knots

Diving depth: 300m

Crew: 52

Sea endurance: 45 days

Torpedo tubes: 6

Armament: 8 Strela-3 or 8 Igla missiles

