

Watch
CBS-TV
Wed., Mar. 28
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The Selfish
Giant
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*It's a chilling game that
NATO ships, planes and helicopters
play daily in matching wits with
Soviet nuclear submarines*

Hide-and-Seek in the North Atlantic

By JAMES ATWATER

THE GREAT, black submarine noses slowly out through the Murmansk inlet and into the swells of the Barents Sea. Standing on the conning tower, the commander watches the bleak coastline of northern Russia gradually disappear—the last sight of land that he is likely to have for months. The hatch of the conning tower clangs shut above him now and, with a frothing surge, the submarine slides beneath the waves and begins the long voyage to its duty station: the waters off the East Coast of the United States.

The submarine is one of the Soviet Union's new Y class of underwater craft, called by the U.S. Navy, oddly enough, the "Yankee" class. With the deployment of the Yankees, the Russians have taken an enormous stride toward equaling U.S. naval strength. The Yankee, in fact, is a

remarkably good copy of the American Polaris submarine, which revolutionized naval warfare when it was introduced in the early '60s. Like the Polaris, the Yankee is nuclear-powered and carries 16 nuclear-tipped missiles. It is designed not to stalk convoys or battle fleets but to hide alone in the sea, ready to devastate targets as far inland as Chicago if ever the command should come. Although the Yankee is nearly 1½ times the length of a football field and weighs almost as much as a World War II cruiser, it can reach speeds of over 30 knots while submerged—faster than most of its pursuers can go on a calm surface.

To find and track a Yankee, the U.S. Navy, backed up by NATO forces, must use its most advanced techniques of anti-submarine warfare. The maneuvers between hunters and hunted are carried out with