from detection, the two submarine fleets will balance each other; neither side could afford to attack, knowing that the other's submarines would survive to mount a devastating counterattack.

Can the Russians track a Polaris? "No," says Admiral Duncan flatly. The Soviets now lag behind the United States in ASW techniques. They have two modern ships, each of which can carry 20 ASW helicopters equipped with sonobuoys and electronic gear, but as yet they have no carriers that can launch aircraft like the S-2, which has a range far greater than any helicopter.

In 1978, after the expiration of the present SALT agreements, the United States will deploy a submarine far superior to either the Yankee or the Polaris. Called the Trident, the super-submarine will carry a new missile with a range of 4500 to 6000 miles. It could, in fact, hit Moscow from Chesapeake Bay.

Meanwhile, the United States and the Soviet Union press ahead with ASW. Even now, the U.S. Navy searches for submarines with electronic "ears" attached to cables that snake along the ocean floor. Unmanned "platforms" move back and forth across areas of the Atlantic, listening as they go. The Navy is also erecting a huge $1-billion tower on the floor of the Atlantic itself, 16,000 feet deep, to catch the distant, menacing whisper of a submarine.

But, for some years to come, ASW is likely to remain heavily dependent upon sensitive sonobuoys and skilled pilots like Tony Bracken, who will continue to fly low over the North Atlantic, trying to think two jumps ahead of a Russian commander lurking hundreds of feet beneath the white-flecked waves.