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 ``Uninvited Guests in the Swedish Fjords``]

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Subslug: [Article by IZVESTIYA Correspondence Marat Zubko,
 Stockholm: ``Uninvited Guests in the Swedish Fjords``]

FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE:

1. [Article by IZVESTIYA Correspondence Marat Zubko, Stockholm:
 ``Uninvited Guests in the Swedish Fjords``]
2. [Text] Foreign submarines continued to penetrate Sweden's territorial waters in 1991, but evidently these intrusions ceased in September--that conclusion is contained in a report which Swedish Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Bengt Gustafsson submitted to the country's government.
3. The commander-in-chief compiles annual reports about violations of Sweden's airspace and territorial waters and their appearance is regarded with restraint here. But, this time, the Swedes impatiently awaited Bengt Gustafsson's reports on the causes for them. Not long ago, Commander Carl Andersson, famous for his active participation in the hunt for submarines, literally dumbfounded his countrymen with his declaration that all the commotion about submarine incursions is simply a chimera, like the story of flying saucers (IZVESTIYA, No. 230).
4. How did the general confirm his story? He confirms that the country's coast guard recorded ``approximately five probable violations`` off Sweden's eastern coast to the north and south of Stockholm. In his words, there was an additional pair of incursions, but with a lesser degree of probability.
5. As we can see, this is a question of probable incursions, but nevertheless, the commander-in-chief says he was 100 percent convinced that foreign submarines have entered the country's territorial waters.
6. The report notes that Swedish seamen twice managed to record

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''submarine noises'' which, according to military experts, were identical to those recorded for the first time during the violation of Sweden's sea boundaries on the west coast in 1984, and then ''caught'' 40 more times.

7. By the nature of the noises, the Swedes sort of established that they are dealing with a mini-submarine 25-35 meters long.

8. However, the primary evidence that incursions are taking place in principle, in the words of ministry of defense representatives, is contained in the video-film ''Uninvited Guests,'' which is attached to the report. Specifically, this film contains frames that were taken at the bottom of one of the bays of Sweden's Gotland Island, in which damage to the underwater anti-submarine warning cable is visible. The film states that an underwater all-terrain vehicle deployed from aboard a submarine might have damaged the signal system.

9. And still even this did not appear to be adequately convincing to many Swedes. A number of experts expressed the opinion that ships' anchors or bottom trawl nets could have damaged the cable.

10. However, there is a detail in the commander-in-chief's report that calls special attention to itself: violations of Swedish waters ceased in September 1991. And although Bengt Gustafsson says that it is still early to come to a conclusion on the subject of the cessation of the incursions, there is still something to ponder here.

11. First of all, this question arises: isn't the disappearance of periscopes from Swedish waters not associated with the replacement of the former USSR's Ministry of Defense leadership after the August putsch? If it is associated, doesn't it signify that our submarines were nevertheless violating Swedish territorial waters? The sooner the answer is given on that score, the better.

12. However, that does not completely rule out that this is only a temporary break in the ''periscope hunt'' in Sweden and that entirely different forces are related to the incursions. In this regard, attention is directed to a recent article by Investigator Tommi Lindfors in the Stockholm newspaper DAGENS NYUKHETER which told a story that was unknown to the Swedish public. In February 1984, a foreign submarine which appeared to be... American was detected in the coastal waters of southern Sweden, near Karlskrona Naval Base.

13. Having fired 22 depth-charges at the submarine, the coast guard attempted to detain it, but it did not manage to catch or destroy it. Why? Maybe because on that very same day the American ABC television company reported that U.S. Navy mini-submarines ''are visiting the

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waters of friendly states'' for the purpose of studying underwater objects. It is easy to understand that the Swedes were given the signal not to bomb too zealously. At that time, IZVESTIYA wrote about CBS's acknowledgement.

14. In December 1991, General Gustafsson ordered the coast guard to act more energetically in the event of territorial water violations, specifically, to immediately open fire if sonar detects the presence of unidentified mini-submarines about 30 meters long. Now, we assume that measures will be even more severe. While commenting on the commander-in-chief's report, Defense Minister Anders Bjork stated:

15. ''We will never reconcile ourselves to that fact that some state is violating Swedish waters. Neither now, nor in the future...''

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