

Sweden Spent \$2M Hunting for Nonexistent 'Russian Sub' – Reports

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The Swedish navy spent almost \$2 million hunting for a Russian submarine off the coast of Stockholm that turned out to be a broken buoy, Sweden's Svenska Dagbladet newspaper has reported.

Sweden said in 2014 it had proof that a foreign submarine had been operating illegally in the Stockholm archipelago after suspicions sparked the country's biggest military mobilization since the Cold War. Analysts suspected it to be a Russian submarine, but a Swedish admiral [said](#) months later that the submarine was actually a white plastic boat named the "Time Bandit."

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Intercepted radio signals thought to come from a Russian sub turned out to be Sweden's own transmission to a faulty Swedish weather buoy, Svenska Dagbladet [reported](#) Tuesday, citing

an unnamed person with insight into the matter.

Stockholm has meanwhile moved to [increase](#) its defense spending since the incident. While Sweden is not in NATO, as a member of the European Union the country [participates](#) in economic sanctions imposed by the bloc against Russia over its actions in Ukraine.

Svenska Dagbladet's report comes four years after the Swedish government [learned](#) of the mistake. Swedish lawmakers remained in the dark about the error for four months, the publication reported.

On Wednesday, it [said](#) that the Swedish government has made a 14-page report into the 2014 Russian submarine chase confidential.

Russia's Defense Ministry at the time [compared](#) Sweden's search involving more than 200 troops, stealth ships and helicopters to the hunt for a popular Swedish children's book character.

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