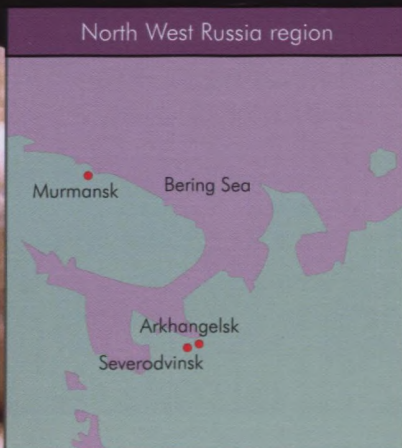
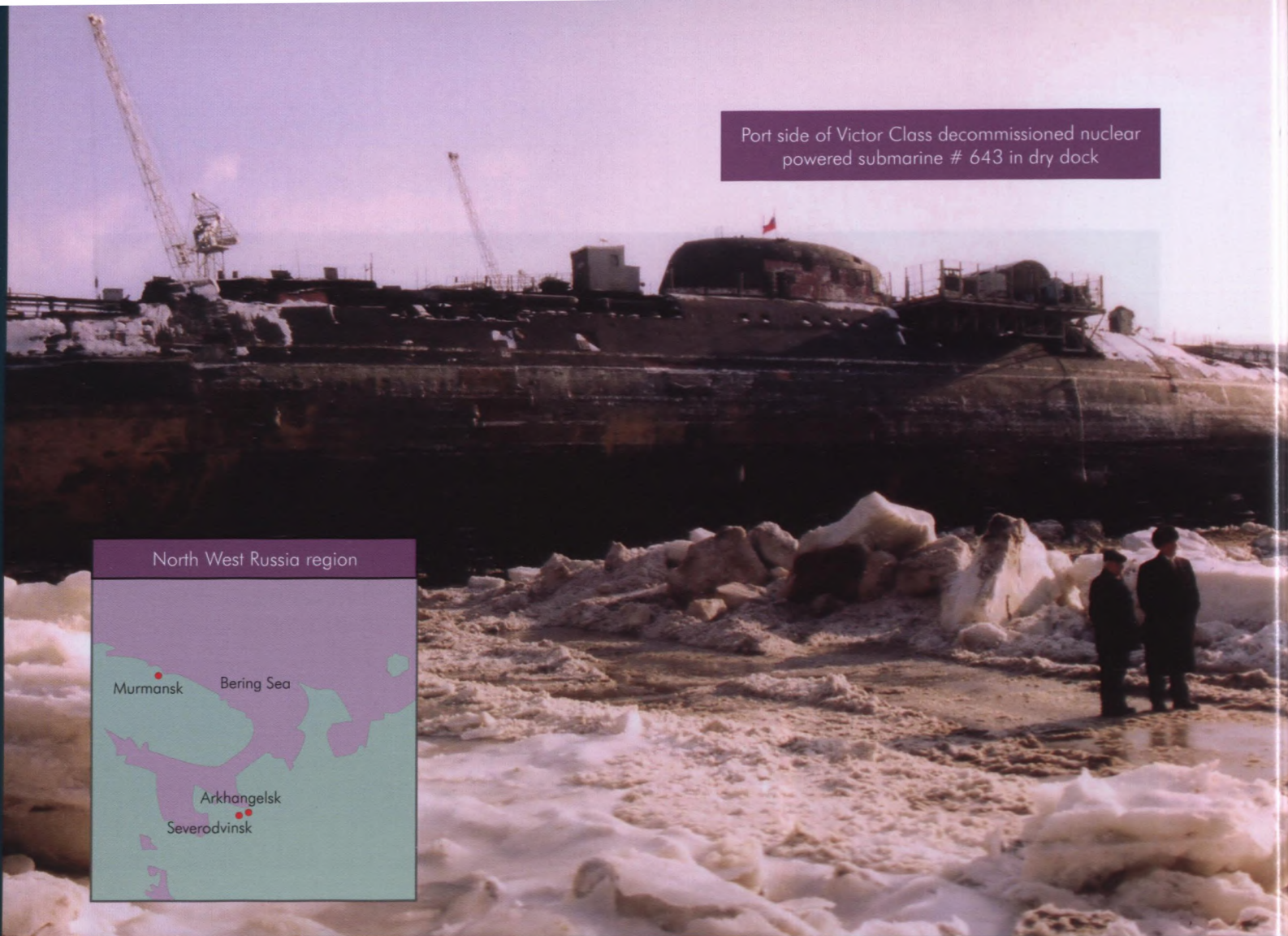


Port side of Victor Class decommissioned nuclear powered submarine # 643 in dry dock



Priority Area 2: Dismantlement of Nuclear Submarines

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, nearly 200 decommissioned nuclear-powered submarines from Russia's Northern and Pacific fleets required dismantlement and disposal. Poorly maintained and protected in many cases, these submarines continue to pose serious nuclear and radiological proliferation risks. Materials within each submarine, or stored in shipyards awaiting disposal, are vulnerable to theft and sabotage. Spent nuclear fuel (SNF) is considered a particular enticement for terrorists. Moreover, serious environmental contamination can result if SNF or radioactive wastes enter the Arctic or Pacific ocean environments. Without international assistance, it is estimated that Russia would be able to dismantle only three to four such submarines per year.

Fifteen years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, there are still nearly 60 decommissioned nuclear-powered submarines (NPS) from Russia's Northern Fleet awaiting safe dismantlement. About half of these have nuclear fuel on board. Removing the risk posed by aged and fragile nuclear submarines involves 13 stages, including transportation, defuelling, dismantlement and safe storage of reactor compartments. Canada, Germany, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States are all helping Russia tackle this *Global Partnership* priority area.

Project: Dismantling 12 Decommissioned Russian Nuclear Submarines

Through the bilateral agreement with Russia, Canada has committed to dismantling 12 decommissioned nuclear-powered submarines from Russia's Northern Fleet by 2008 at a total cost of approximately \$120 million. Canada's commitment represents a significant contribution to addressing the problem and the risk presented by SNF on decommissioned Russian submarines.