

Spare Parts

In the early 70s I was assigned to OP-36 (Foreign Military Sales) at the Pentagon. One of my countries was Italy and they were trying to buy one of our old submarines. But they did not have the \$300,00 to pay for the sub. As the meeting was about to close, I suggested that they had \$700,00 in an Italian "spare parts case". That's how the Italian navy ended up with the sub, the Romi Romi!!

Sonar Buoy

I also, in OP-63, had the French navy military cases. They wanted to buy our new sonar buoy, but only wanted 300 of them because they were quite expensive. I assumed they only wanted, so few, so they could "reverse engineer" them. I told ADM Gerhard, my boss, of my summation and he agreed with me. So, I put the F.M.S. case in my desk drawer. The French navy rep. would come by often and ask about the case. I would tell him, "It was being staffed." I did this for about 18 months and then was transferred. The case was still in my desk drawer when I left the Pentagon. I always wondered why I was never invited to the French Embassy parties.

CAPT Ace Trask, USN RET