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PROGRAM All Things Considered... STATION WETA FM NPR Network

DATE August 7, 1984 6:00 PM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Potentially Formidable Adversary

NOAH ADAMS: The British publication Jane's Defence Weekly has published photos of a new nuclear powered aircraft carrier the Soviets are building in the Black Sea.

According to Jane's, the carrier will have a displacement of 75,000 tons, placing it in the same category as the US Nimitz class of carriers.

Based on the photos taken last month, Jane's says the vessel is a potentially formidable adversary for the US Navy.

Larry Miller has a report from London.

LARRY MILLER: The highly detailed satellite pictures are said to bear out rumors that the 75,000 ton aircraft carrier is indeed under construction.

The pictures confirm reports that the Soviets are moving away from the smaller conventional carriers that are designed to provide only air cover.

Jane's Defence Weekly says this new carrier will also have a strong strike capability.

Jane's spokesman Richard Colter (?) says it's clear the Soviets have begun their challenge of the United States naval supremacy.

RICHARD COLTER: At the moment the US Navy rules the roost at sea, just because the Soviet Navy doesn't have any indigenous air power. But once they've got this indigenous (?) air power they can have anti-submarine aircraft on board, they

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can have air early -- AEW -- early warning aircraft on board. It makes them a much more viable force, you know, matching like with like.

MILLER: But the magazine says construction of the carrier has been slow and it's not expected to be operational until the mid-1990's.

For National Public Radio, this is Larry Miller in London.

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