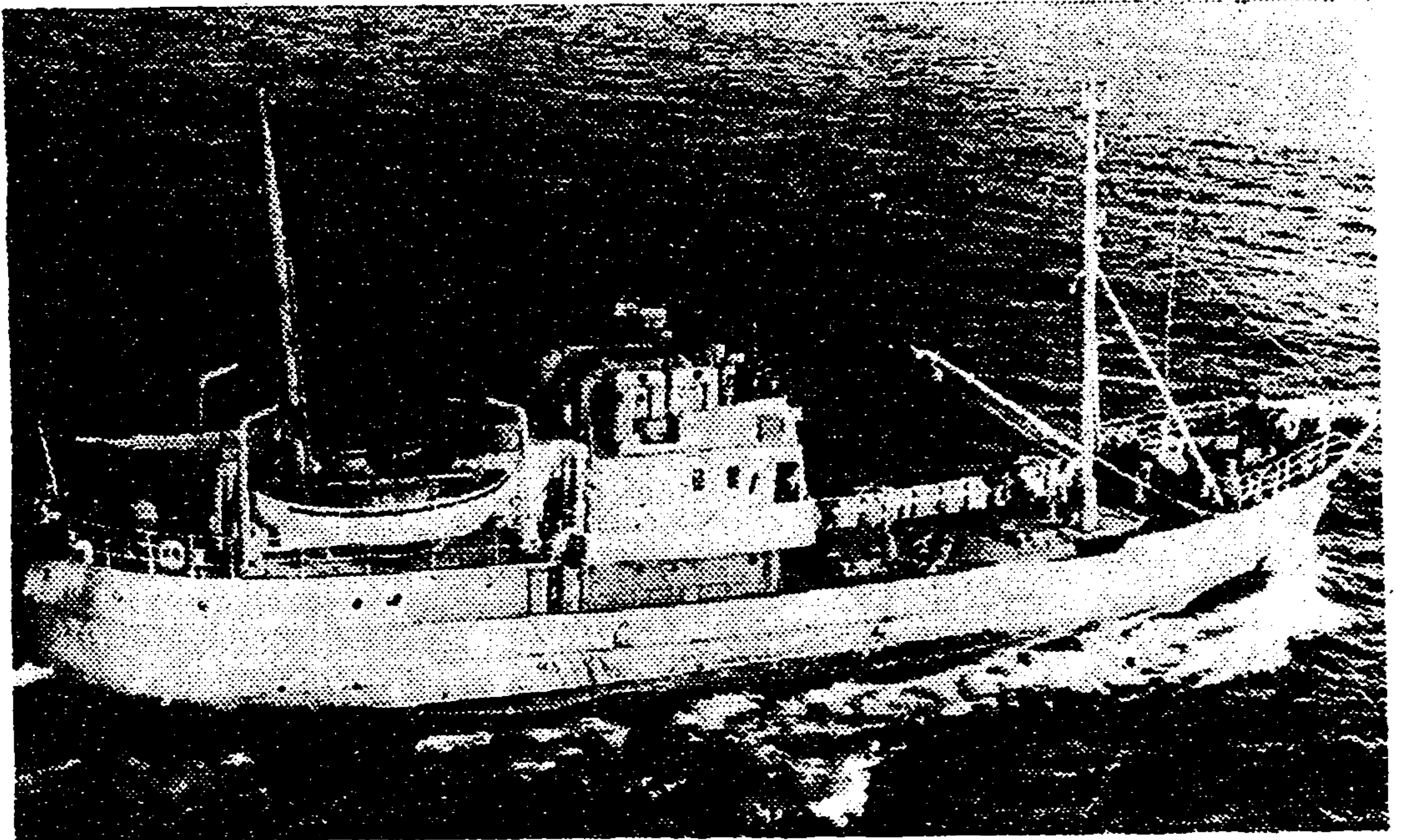


Soviet Trawler Is Discovered Off L. I. Near Polaris Submarine on Maneuvers



U. S. Navy, via Associated Press Wirephoto

Soviet trawler, photographed from Navy airship, has detection devices on superstructure

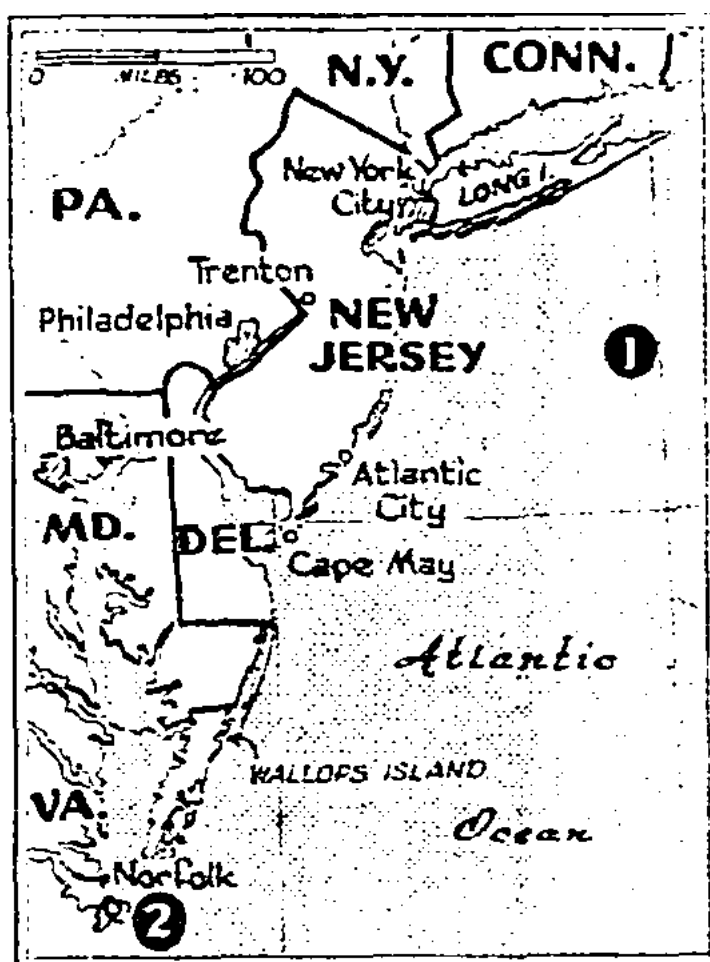
Russian Ship Could Have Obtained Valuable Data, the Navy Indicates

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, April 29 — The Navy released today a picture it took last Tuesday of a Soviet trawler passing close by the new Polaris submarine George Washington while the submarine was on missile-firing maneuvers sixty miles south of Long Island.

The George Washington is the first of the nation's planned fleet of nuclear-powered submarines firing ballistic missiles. She is undergoing final tests before scheduled operational readiness in September.

The picture released by the



The New York Times April 30, 1960
Trawler's position (1) off Long Island, (2) Norfolk.

Navy was taken from a Navy patrol blimp. The exact position of the Soviet ship was not given, but the Navy noted that she

American Atomic Vessel on Final Test Cruise in International Waters

was passing through international waters.

A Navy spokesman said that she could have obtained valuable information.

The Soviet ship, identified as the Vega, was seen cruising close by the missile-test area "at a fairly good speed," heading in a southerly direction.

The area in which the Vega was seen Tuesday is not often used by foreign fishing boats, but it is used frequently by the nuclear-powered submarines

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Soviet Trawler Spotted Off L.I. Near First Polaris Submarine

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stationed at New London, Conn.

The Vega was observed on Wednesday off the Virginia coast, near Norfolk, the home base of the Atlantic Fleet, a Navy spokesman said in response to questions.

The Navy gave few details. In addition to releasing the photograph, it said merely that the Navy airship, which it identified as a ZPG-2, had been patrolling the area to spot dummy Polaris missiles being test-fired from the George Washington.

The ZPG-2, attached to Air Squadron Three, is based at Lakehurst, N. J.

The blimp was floating over the maneuver area as the George Washington fired dummy slugs from beneath the surface of the water. The slugs are known as "dolphins."

The dolphins are shot by air pressure from one or more of the submarine's sixteen Polaris missile tubes. They do not rise more than a few feet above the surface of the water but throw up great columns of water, forty or fifty feet in the air.

Undergoing Final Tests

The Polaris intermediate-range ballistic missiles are undergoing final tests at Cape Canaveral, Fla., and off the Pacific Coast at Point Mugu, Calif.

In the first combat-readiness stage, they are expected to have a range of about 1,000 miles, and eventually a range of about 2,500 miles. Each missile will be equipped with a hydrogen-bomb warhead.

The Soviet trawler may have been one of a fleet of about a dozen Soviet ships that have been stationed among fishing vessels of many nations off the Grand Banks near Newfoundland.

However, a Navy spokesman said he did not know whether the Vega had previously been identified there. The Navy regularly sends aircraft to take pictures of the trawlers off Newfoundland, on the theory that the Russians are there for military observation as well as for fishing.

Last year the Navy sent a boarding party onto one of the Soviet trawlers after it found that the Soviet ship had inadvertently cut four international cables with her dragging gear. The Russians were warned to be careful. Another cable was cut recently.

The Navy did not indicate

when it had first spotted the Vega nor at what time of the day the picture had been taken. As the Vega moved by the test area at a good clip, her size was estimated at about 225 feet long and twenty-six feet across the beam, with a possible displacement of 350 tons.

A Navy source also disclosed that observers had noticed that the Soviet ship was unusually clean for a fishing vessel. There was no fishing gear in sight. The Soviet ship also carried various types of radar antenna.

The Navy spokesman confirmed the possibility that any sonar equipment the Vega carried below the surface for sounding and tracking fish could also be used to take soundings on the George Washington's missile tests.

The George Washington, which is based at New London, continued with her maneuvers despite knowledge of the Soviet trawler's presence, which was relayed to her from the blimp.

Also participating in the firing of the dummy missiles were the fleet tug U. S. S. Nipmuc and the submarine rescue ship U. S. S. Sunbird.

There were conflicting reports at the Pentagon as to whether any Soviet ships had been identified in the vicinity of the George Washington's firing tests.

A Navy spokesman emphasized that the Russians had had every right to be in the area under international law. Presumably the Vega's captain would have known that the tests were going on and probably saw the blimp that took the pictures.

With binoculars, the Russians on the Vega could have seen the dummy missiles popping to the surface and the long streams of water pouring upward.

The information that could have been obtained with underwater sonar or sound equipment would be valuable, although not perhaps vital, a Navy spokesman said.

The Russians could have measured the time it took for the slugs to be ejected, they could have observed whether more than one slug was fired at a time and they could have observed the characteristics of the nuclear-powered submarine herself.

SOVIET'S TRAWLER HEADING OUT TO SEA

WASHINGTON, April 30 (AP)—A Soviet trawler was heading out into the Atlantic today after a cruise off the United States coast that took her within sight of a United States missile submarine trying out equipment.

The Navy said latest reports showed that the ship was sailing eastward after a trip that had taken her down to a position off Norfolk, Va.

A Navy blimp photographed the trawler Vega on Tuesday while she was less than a mile from a point off Long Island where the Polaris-missile submarine, the George Washington, accompanied by two surface ships, was testing out the release of dummy missiles from her launching tubes.

There was no violation of the international law in the coastwise cruise of the Soviet trawler. She was well outside the territorial waters of the United States, in the international seas.

However, the Vega and the course that she traveled had aroused some curiosity.

It was noticed, for instance, that although the hull of the 250-foot ship appeared to be of normal trawler design, the photograph showed the Vega had an unusual array of radar equipment.

The picture also showed no trawler gear rigged on the deck of the Vega. The two hatches on the forward deck, normally used for dumping fish from nets into the hold and for unloading, looked unusually small for these purposes.

The New York Times

Published: May 1, 1960

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Note to Soviet on 'Buzzing'

WASHINGTON, July 21 (UPI)—Following is the text of a United States note to the Soviet Union today on the buzzing of Soviet ships:

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honor to refer to the Ministry's memorandum of July 13 in which certain allegations were made regarding the buzzing of Soviet vessels by United States aircraft.

According to the Ministry's statement, the alleged flights in question have created danger to life and represent a violation of "freedom of passage" on the high seas and of "generally accepted rules of international law."

The embassy, on instructions of its Government, rejects these Soviet allegations as without foundation. An investigation of the incidents cited in the Ministry's memorandum has established that at no time has a United States plane flown over Soviet vessels in any way which would constitute a hazard to the vessel or endanger the safety of its crew.

It is, of course, common practice for ships and aircraft to establish mutual identification in international waters. In accordance with this practice, the United States patrol planes often seek to identify ships encountered whose position and identity are not otherwise known, particularly in the ocean approaches to the United States. The pilots of these planes are under the strictest instructions, however, not to approach closer than is necessary for this purpose. That the Soviet Government alone should find it necessary to object to such iden-

tification gives rise to the question as to just what are the activities of Soviet vessels that require the Soviet Government to protest such routine identification.

In this connection, the Soviet vessel Vega, although ostensibly a fishing trawler, was in fact discovered to be equipped with extensive electronic equipment and to be conducting an intelligence mission along the east coast of the United States for five days in April of this year. In such circumstances there is every reason for establishing the identity of such a vessel and the nature of its activity.

The United States Government has noted with interest the several references which the Ministry has made to the well-established principle of freedom of the seas. The United States Government would like to hope that the Soviet Government might now begin to respect this freedom on the part of other nations, whether for ships or aircraft.

The United States Government has also noted the statement of the Soviet Government that it will be obliged "to take other measures which will be necessary to insure the safety of navigation of Soviet vessels in the open seas." This cannot be interpreted other than as a reckless threat of aggressive action against United States aircraft proceeding on legitimate flights over international waters. This threat resembles other recent Soviet statements and actions. The United States Government cannot accept this threat. It will continue to exercise all the rights on and over international waters to which it is entitled under international law and practice.

View on 'Buzzing' Disputed

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, July 21—The United States told the Soviet Union today that it would continue to check on Soviet ships in international waters, particularly those approaching the American coasts.

Washington denied a Soviet allegation that identification flights near Soviet vessels constituted a danger to the safety of such ships. It denounced Russia's warning that she would "take other measures to insure the safety of Soviet vessels in open seas" as a "reckless threat of aggressive action against United States aircraft."

The United States stated its views in a note delivered today to the Soviet Foreign Ministry. It was an answer to a Soviet protest July 13 against "buzz-

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The New York Times

Published: July 22, 1960

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VIEW ON 'BUZZING' REJECTED BY U. S.

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ing" of Soviet ships by United States planes.

Today's note said an investigation showed that United States planes had not flown over Soviet ships "in any way which would constitute a hazard to the vessel or endanger the safety of its crew."

The United States message said Moscow's objection to the identification flights raised the question as to what the Soviet vessels were doing.

In that connection, the note said, it was discovered that a Soviet ship, the Vega, ostensibly a fishing trawler, was in fact laden with electronic equipment and was carrying out an intelligence assignment along the East Coast last April.

The Vega appeared off Long Island during tests of the missile-firing submarine George Washington. Later the Soviet vessel was reported at various points off the East Coast, including the mouth of Chesapeake Bay.

"In such circumstances there is every reason for establishing the identity of such a vessel and the nature of its activity," the United States note said.

The note said pilots checking on ships at sea were under strict orders to approach no closer than necessary to establish identification.

The note cited Soviet references to "the well-established principle of freedom of the seas." It said the United States Government "would like to hope that the Soviet Government might now begin to respect this freedom on the part of other nations, whether for ships or aircraft."

This was an allusion to the downing July 1 of a United States RB-47 reconnaissance plane in the Barents Sea by Soviet fighter aircraft. The United States has said the plane never was closer than thirty miles to Soviet territory. Moscow charged that the plane had invaded Soviet airspace.

The New York Times

Published: July 22, 1960

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