

## ***Spy Ships Are Held Useful***

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At the height of the Pueblo seizure crisis, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara told a closed Senate committee meeting that Soviet spy ships aren't all bad. In Feb. 1 testimony released last week, McNamara said: "It is important to us at times that the Soviets have these ships . . . near our forces. They had one associated with our Mediterranean task force during the Israeli-Egyptian conflict . . . which enabled the Soviets to know that Nasser and Hussein's statement that U.S. aircraft had attacked Egyptian forces was in error and," the Secretary added, "it was extremely important to us under those circumstances that the Soviets know that."

A U.S. spy ship, he said, "was off the coast of Cuba during the Cuban missile crisis. It provided invaluable information, on the basis of which national policy was formulated."