

U.S. ISSUES REPORT ON SHIP DEFECTOR

It Indicates Admiral Made
Decision to Deny Asylum

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—Two documents issued by the White House today appeared to confirm earlier reports that Rear Adm. William B. Ellis, commander of the First Coast Guard District, gave the crucial order to return a Soviet defector to the fishing vessel from which he sought to escape two weeks ago.

The documents, compiled by the Departments of State and Transportation at President Nixon's orders, also suggest that Admiral Ellis may have acted on his own, although there remain doubts on this point.

Admiral Ellis, the reports say, gave his first order to the commander of cutter Vigilant, on which the defector had sought refuge, about 5 o'clock in the afternoon on Nov. 23. One hour earlier, a State Department offi-

cial had told Coast Guard authorities who had asked for guidance that "the possible defector should not be encouraged."

Both reports were silent on the question of whether Admiral Ellis was aware of this guidance and, if he was aware of it, whether it influenced his decision.

Chronology Provided

The two documents provided a chronology of the episode, gave details on how the defector was beaten by his shipmates, said there had been poor communication between the Coast Guard and the State Department, and said White House staff members had failed to inform the President.

The reports also suggested that the Coast Guard, after soliciting preliminary guidance from the State Department in mid-afternoon, sought no further guidance during that day and evening while the crucial decisions were being made by Admiral Ellis. The defector, identified as Simas Kudirka, a Lithuanian, was eventually returned to the Soviet ship shortly before midnight.