

# Navy Now Guarding Spy Ships

By PAUL SCOTT

*Editor's Note: The following views are those of the author and are presented here to give readers a variety of viewpoints. The Tribune's opinions are expressed only in editorials.*

The Navy is providing limited emergency protection for U.S. intelligence - gathering ships operating in potentially dangerous areas of the world.

Since the USS Pueblo was seized by the North Koreans, naval aircraft or warships have been reassigned to guard and keep radio contact with U.S. spy - vessels operating in the Mediterranean, the Gulf of Tonkin, the Caribbean, and the Sea of Japan.

Naval authorities, in briefing members of the House Armed Services Committee on the plan recently, revealed that this emergency air - sea guard may already have averted another Pueblo - like disaster off the coast of Egypt in the Mediterranean.

The incident occurred Feb. 11 when U.S. carrier - based planes of U.S. Sixth Fleet made a show of force to ward off two Egyptian II-28s, or Beagle jet bombers, en route to buzz or attack the Georgetown, a sister spy - ship of the USS Liberty.

## HERE ARE ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATORS

U.S. Senators — Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510.  
Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, Sen. George Murphy.

Congressmen — House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515.  
Rep. Jeffery Cohean, 7th District, representing Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont, North Oakland, Central Oakland, and part of East Oakland; Rep. George P. Miller, 8th, representing part of East Oakland, Alameda, San Leandro, Castro Valley, San Ramon Village, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Lorenzo, and part of Hayward; Rep. Don Edwards, 9th, representing part of Hayward, Fremont, Union City, Newark, and the northern part of Santa Clara County; Rep. Jerome Waldie, 14th, representing Contra Costa County.

State Senators and Assemblymen — State Capitol, Sacramento, Calif., 95801.  
Alameda County — State Senators are 8th District, Lewis F. Sherman, 11th, Nicholas C. Petris; 14th, Clark Bradley. The 8th and 11th Districts cover the same area, with Sherman and Petris representing all of Alameda County except Castro Valley, Livermore, and Pleasanton. Those communities and a large section of Santa Clara County are represented by Bradley.

Assemblymen are Carlos Bee, 13th District; Robert W. Crown, 14th; Mrs. March K. Fong, 15th; Don Mulford, 16th; John J. Miller, 17th.

Contra Costa County — State Senator, 7th District, George Miller Jr.; Assemblymen James W. Dent, 10th District; John T. Knox, 11th.

The Liberty, larger than the Pueblo, was attacked and put out of commission by Israeli planes and torpedo boats about 15 miles north of the Sinai peninsula last June on the third day of the Arab - Israel war.

At the time of the attempted buzzing or attack, the Georgetown was about 40 miles off the Egyptian coast north of Alexandria, where four Russian warships have been anchored for several weeks.

The air - sea guard was assigned the Georgetown two weeks ago after its crew had monitored several Egyptian government broadcasts warning that U.S. vessels caught spying on that country's military installation would meet the same fate as the Pueblo.

Another Arab broadcast picked up by the Georgetown praised the North Koreans for seizing the Pueblo and stressed that the Egyptians had the means to either capture or destroy spy - vessels caught in its waters.

The Georgetown is a 7,000 - ton ship with a complement of 275 including 18 officers. It is classed by the Navy as an AGTR, meaning auxiliary technical research ship. The vessel carries more than \$100 million worth of sensitive radar and radio listening devices. Other AGTR's, all converted freighters, include the Oxford, and the Jamestown.

Until the recent Georgetown incident, U.S. naval authorities were more concerned that Cuba's Premier Castro might try to duplicate North Korea's seizure of a U.S. ship than Egypt's Nasser.

Since the Pueblo incident, several of the missile - firing patrol boats the Soviets gave Castro in 1962 have aggressively patrolled Cuban coastal waters in the general area that a U.S. spy - ship is operating.

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Clark Clifford, who will be sworn in as Secretary of Defense on March 1, has been

doing some frank talking about the Administration's most recent unsuccessful effort to get the North Vietnamese to the conference table.

In a background briefing on Vietnam, Clifford told a group of Democratic lawmakers that "we were played for fools by Hanoi during the surprise Communist Tet holiday offensive."

"It will never happen again," Clifford assured the legislators after several had assailed President Johnson's decision to ban all bombing in a 10 - mile area of Hanoi and Haiphong during his latest peace offensive.

"In the future the North Vietnamese will have to make their proposals directly to us," stated Clifford. "We are through going to them. They know exactly where President Johnson stands and if they are serious about wanting to talk they can call us."

When grilled by one House member on why bombing restrictions had been imposed on U.S. fliers while the enemy was building up his forces around Khe Sanh, Clifford replied:

"We halted all bombing within a 10 - mile radius of Hanoi and Haiphong in the hope the North Vietnamese leaders would respond to the diplomatic soundings underway. A special envoy was in Hanoi explaining the President's San Antonio formula.

"We now recognize that the bombing pause was a mistake. The Communists tricked us. Their response was a brutal military offensive against the South Vietnamese cities. They attempted to inflict a Pearl Harbor but failed."

The incoming Defense Secretary paid a high tribute to Gen. William Westmoreland, U.S. Commander in Vietnam, pointing out that all during the Tet holiday he had kept U.S. military forces on the alert.

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