

Ships at Haiphong Unloading Unmolested, U.S. Officials Say

By BENJAMIN WELLES

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WASHINGTON, May 14 — Administration officials said today that Soviet and other vessels in Haiphong harbor were "completing their unloading"—apparently without molestation by United States aircraft or warships in the area.

About 36 Soviet, Chinese, Polish, East German, Cuban and Somali vessels were reported in the harbor when President Nixon ordered mines laid off Haiphong and six other North Vietnamese ports early Monday. Eight ships were reported to have left Haiphong before the mines became active at 6 A.M. Washington time Thursday.

The officials would give no details on the nationalities of the ships being unloaded, or the types of cargoes they had brought to North Vietnam.

"We haven't drawn up any quarantine list of goods," one senior official said. "There's no blockade. There are mines in the channels and in North Vietnamese territorial waters, and if any ships want suicidally to risk them — that's their business."

The Pentagon disputed a report published today in The New York Times that said the mines recently laid at the approaches of Haiphong and six other North Vietnamese ports were of the magnetic type and designed to turn themselves on and off in irregular sequence to foil detection.

The report quoted responsible informants as saying that the mines were so designed that Mr. Nixon could, if he chose, order the deactivation of the mines in North Vietnamese ports just before or during his Moscow visit.

Jerry W. Friedheim, a Pen-

tagon spokesman, termed the report wrong. He said:

"We are not going to discuss specifics of mine technology."

The report that the remaining vessels are being allowed to discharge cargoes appeared to suggest a slight easing of military pressure by the Administration—possibly to avoid causing casualties among the Soviet and other Communist-country crews on the eve of President Nixon's visit to Moscow. Mr. Nixon is scheduled to visit the Soviet Union from May 22 to 29.

On Wednesday, Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird was asked at a Pentagon news conference whether ships that chose to remain in harbor and continued to unload cargo after the Thursday deadline for activating the mines would be "susceptible to attack."

"We will take those actions that are necessary to see that those deliveries are not made in North Vietnam," he replied. Asked what he meant by "delivery," Mr. Laird continued:

"I'm not going to get into just any specific dock. I consider the entire land mass of North Vietnam would constitute a delivery."

Meanwhile, the eight Soviet freighters that the Moscow radio said yesterday were on their way from Black Sea ports to Haiphong with nonmilitary cargoes were reported still several hundred miles from their destination.

Nixon at Camp David

WASHINGTON, May 14 (UPI)

—President Nixon spent the day at Camp David, Md., and was reported to have studied official dispatches from Vietnam.

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