

Haiphong Harbor Is Declared Safe For Ships by U. S.

WASHINGTON, June 22 (AP) —The Navy today declared the main channel of Haiphong harbor, the principal port of North Vietnam, to be open and safe for shipping.

One of the ships of a Navy minesweeping task force sailed through the channel twice without incident Wednesday. The declaration is in large part a formality because ships from Communist countries have been using the harbor regularly for months without trouble.

Helicopters are continuing to drag detonating devices along the edges of the harbor and in the waters off the North Vietnamese cities of Hon Gai and Cam Pha. Farther south, a number of inland waterways are yet to be cleared of American mines dropped there more than a year ago in an attempt to cut the flow of war supplies to North Vietnam.

The North Vietnamese have complained about American intentions to leave some mines buried in the mud of Haiphong harbor. Some of the devices have timers that, when triggered, render them inert.

The Paris peace accords of last January call for the mines either to be removed or marked.