

# Soviet Ships Gather Near Sunken Sub

## Honolulu

A Soviet tugboat was reported yesterday to be in the area where a Russian submarine was lost in 1968 and two other Soviet vessels were heading for Honolulu. Another was scheduled to arrive next month.

The sudden and unusual increase in Soviet shipping activity near Hawaii has led to speculation of a connection with the submarine and Central Intelligence Agency efforts to retrieve it. All military officials here refused comment.

The Navy confirmed the tugboat was in the general area where the submarine is believed to have gone down, some 750 miles northwest of Honolulu. But a spokesman said special flights to follow the course of the Soviet MB11 tug have ended because "it appears she is sailing out of Hawaiian waters."

*United Press*