

Soviet Tug Reported Near Sub Sinking Site

HONOLULU, March 25 (UPI) — A Soviet tugboat was reported today 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 that 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 MB-11 tug have ended because "it appears she is sailing out of Hawaiian waters."

Earlier, the Soviet tug, believed equipped with sophisticated intelligence equipment, came to within 35 miles of Pearl Harbor before heading straight to the area where the sub sank.

Meanwhile, United Press In-

ternational learned of the imminent arrival of two large, specially quipped oceanographic vessels in Hawaii.

Harbor officials confirmed that the Zavetinsky was due in port Wednesday, and the Dolinsk Thursday. 27 MAR

James Andrews, chairman of the University of Hawaii Oceanography Department, said one of Russia's largest oceanographic ships, the Dimi-tri Mendeleev, was due in Hawaiian waters in April.

He said the vessel was reportedly conducting "special magnetic field research."

Harbor sources said it was quite unusual for several Russian ships to arrive at about the same time. A Harbors Division employee said, "Usually we get one in here once or twice a year."

Honolulu is one of several U.S. ports where Soviet ships can obtain permission to dock after extended periods at sea. The Coast Guard was informed of their impending visits and prepared agents to guard the ships at dockside.

Hawaii was the Pacific headquarters for the Glomar Explorer as it recovered portions of the Soviet submarine.