

WP 3103

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350

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My dear Mr. Secretary,

The U. S. Navy is confronted with a new and difficult problem in support of the U. S. position in South Vietnam. The Navy must insure that logistic support via sea does not reach the Viet Cong in South Vietnam from North Vietnam, from communist countries, or communist sympathizers.

At the present time, Seventh Fleet units are being employed to prevent sea infiltration into South Vietnam. However, we find such ships suffer major disadvantages in conducting patrols against shallow draft junks. We are therefore attempting to locate a source of more suitable patrol craft. Such characteristics as high speed, shallow draft, sea keeping ability, radar and communication equipment are important characteristics.

In investigating possible sources of suitable craft it has occurred to us that the Coast Guard may have some patrol craft available which the Navy Department may be able to use.

I would very much appreciate being informed of such patrol craft as may be suitable and as may be made available to the Department of the Navy to assist in this very important mission.

We would be very happy to make available to you a briefing on the problem areas and the patrol craft characteristics which are most desirable in our efforts to prevent sea infiltration into South Vietnam.

26 JAN 1984

Date

Authority

Name

Rec. Mgr.

The Honorable Henry H. Fowler  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Washington, D. C.

Copy to:  
Commandan' U. S. Coast Guard

Sincerely,

Paul

Paul H. Nitze

REGISTERED

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SEARCH AND RESCUE DIVISION

Control No.

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Material for Construction

or Transfer

ENCLOSURE (1)

OSD-5-84-001