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P 040019Z MAY 67  
FM NPIC WASH DC  
TO AIG NINE SEVEN SIX  
RUPEJS/DIA PRODCEN  
RUPEJS/NIC  
BT

1967 MAY 4 00 35Z

*Responds (to DIA) to CINCPACFLT Msg 260506Z Apr (IN 25X15)*

SECRET

CITE NPIC 0575.

1. THE NPIC HAS BEEN REFERRING TO A NEW CLASS OF LIGHT

CARGO VESSEL, TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS A PROBABLE "AKL".

THIS TYPE VESSEL HAS RECENTLY BEEN OBSERVED IN NORTH VIETNAMESE WATERS IN A RESUPPLY ROLE DURING "TET" AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT THE HAI PHONG PORT FACILITIES AND THE KEP AREA SUBSEQUENT TO "TET".

2. THE FOLLOWING PROVIDES THE NPIC RATIONALE IN ARRIVING AT ITS ORIGINAL IDENTIFICATION AND TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION:

A. THE HULL SHAPE APPARENTLY COMPROMISING CARGO CAPACITY FOR INCREASED SPEED.

B. PRESENCE OF LIGHT MACHINE GUN MOUNTS FORE AND AFT (WITH GUNS IN PLACE ON AT LEAST 1 UNIT)

C. UNIFORM GREY PAINT (AS OPPOSED TO TWO OR MORE TONES FOUND ON THE LARGE MAJORITY OF THE CIVIL FLEET)

D. LACK OF STACK MARKINGS

E. POSSIBLE IDENTIFYING SYMBOLS (PAINTED BLACK ON THE GREY HULL) ON THE STARBOARD BOW ONLY.

F. TO DATE, NPIC HAS NOT OBSERVED BUILDING OF THE VESSELS IN NORTH VIETNAM. IT IS PROBABLE THAT SERIES PRODUCTION WAS UNDERTAKEN IN A DENIED AREA.

G. EMPLOYMENT OF THE VESSELS IN A COMBAT ZONE.

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DISTRIBUTION		
Cy No.	Office	Action
2	File	
	OS	
	SEC BR	
	TDS	
3	CCD	
	IPD	
	FD	
	POD	
	PROCB	
	IPD	
4.5	IPD	
6	IPD	
	IPD	
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Advance copy  
Sanitized 25X1

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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3. THE ABOVE FACTS IMPLY THAT THE CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF THE VESSELS IN QUESTION REPRESENTS A HIGH PRIORITY, AT LEAST QUASI-MILITARY PROJECT PROBABLY RELATED TO MILITARY RESUPPLY.

4. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE SPECIFIC DESIGNATION SL-1 HAS GAINED COMMON USAGE FOR THESE VESSELS, NPIC WILL HERE AFTER REPORT THEM AS SL-1 VICE NEW CLASS AKL.

GP-1

S E C R E



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-END OF MESSAGE-

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S/C NOTE: ALSO PASSED PRITY SAIG INFO DIR VETN UDOR