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

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.
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, WPIC WILL HERE AFTER REPORT THEM AS SL-1 VICE NEW CLASS AKL.

GP-1
SECURE

-END OF MESSAGE-

S/C NOTE: ALSO PASSED PRTY SAIG INFO DIR VEITN UDOR