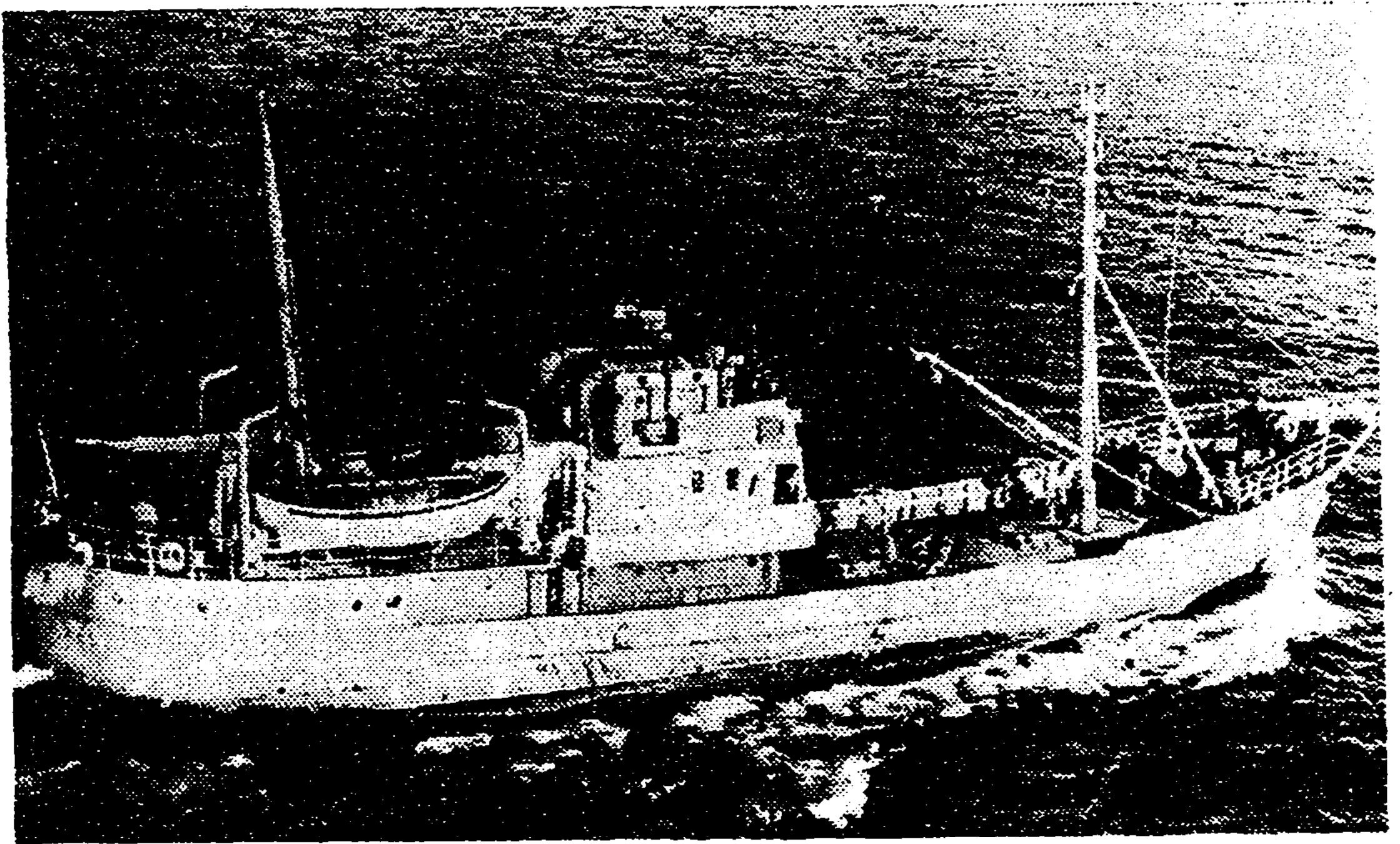


Soviet Trawler Is Discovered Off L. I. Near Polaris Submarine on Maneuvers



U. S. Navy, via Associated Press Wirephoto

Soviet trawler, photographed from Navy airship, has detection devices on superstructure

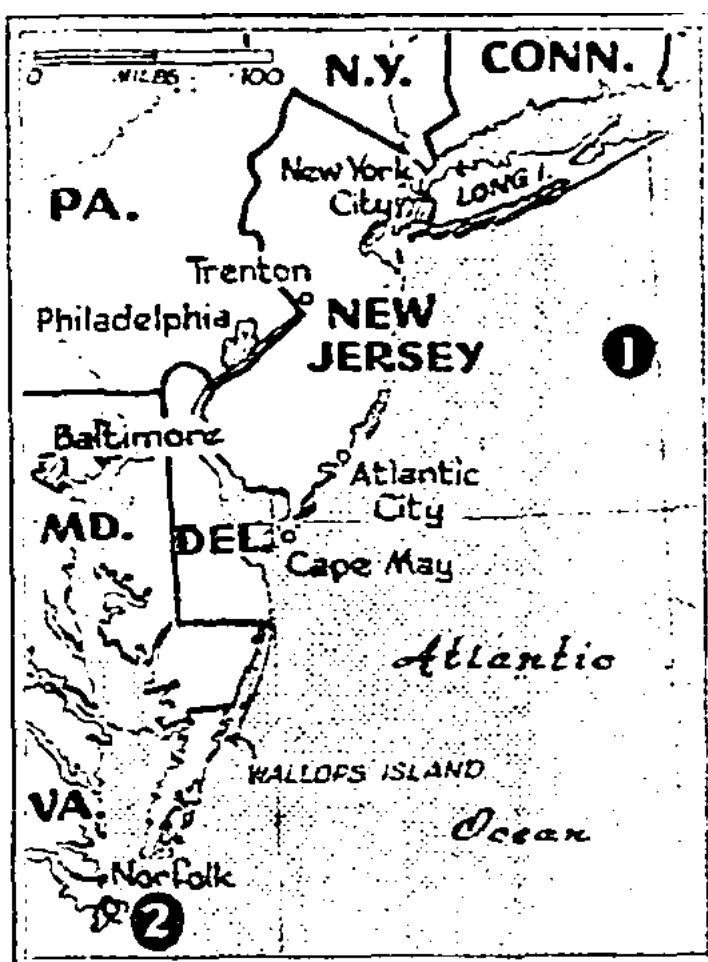
Russian Ship Could Have Obtained Valuable Data, the Navy Indicates

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, April 29 — The Navy released today a picture it took last Tuesday of a Soviet trawler passing close by the new Polaris submarine George Washington while the submarine was on missile-firing maneuvers sixty miles south of Long Island.

The George Washington is the first of the nation's planned fleet of nuclear-powered submarines firing ballistic missiles. She is undergoing final tests before scheduled operational readiness in September.

The picture released by the



The New York Times April 30, 1960
Trawler's position (1) off Long Island, (2) Norfolk.

Navy was taken from a Navy patrol blimp. The exact position of the Soviet ship was not given, but the Navy noted that she

American Atomic Vessel on Final Test Cruise in International Waters

was passing through international waters.

A Navy spokesman said that she could have obtained valuable information.

The Soviet ship, identified as the Vega, was seen cruising close by the missile-test area "at a fairly good speed," heading in a southerly direction.

The area in which the Vega was seen Tuesday is not often used by foreign fishing boats, but it is used frequently by the nuclear-powered submarines

Continued on Page 2, Column 3

The New York Times

Published: April 30, 1960

Copyright © The New York Times

Soviet Trawler Spotted Off L.I. Near First Polaris Submarine

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

stationed at New London, Conn.

The Vega was observed on Wednesday off the Virginia coast, near Norfolk, the home base of the Atlantic Fleet, a Navy spokesman said in response to questions.

The Navy gave few details. In addition to releasing the photograph, it said merely that the Navy airship, which it identified as a ZPG-2, had been patrolling the area to spot dummy Polaris missiles being test-fired from the George Washington.

The ZPG-2, attached to Air Squadron Three, is based at Lakehurst, N. J.

The blimp was floating over the maneuver area as the George Washington fired dummy slugs from beneath the surface of the water. The slugs are known as "dolphins."

The dolphins are shot by air pressure from one or more of the submarine's sixteen Polaris missile tubes. They do not rise more than a few feet above the surface of the water but throw up great columns of water, forty or fifty feet in the air.

Undergoing Final Tests

The Polaris intermediate-range ballistic missiles are undergoing final tests at Cape Canaveral, Fla., and off the Pacific Coast at Point Mugu, Calif.

In the first combat-readiness stage, they are expected to have a range of about 1,000 miles, and eventually a range of about 2,500 miles. Each missile will be equipped with a hydrogen-bomb warhead.

The Soviet trawler may have been one of a fleet of about a dozen Soviet ships that have been stationed among fishing vessels of many nations off the Grand Banks near Newfoundland.

However, a Navy spokesman said he did not know whether the Vega had previously been identified there. The Navy regularly sends aircraft to take pictures of the trawlers off Newfoundland, on the theory that the Russians are there for military observation as well as for fishing.

Last year the Navy sent a boarding party onto one of the Soviet trawlers after it found that the Soviet ship had inadvertently cut four international cables with her dragging gear. The Russians were warned to be careful. Another cable was cut recently.

The Navy did not indicate

when it had first spotted the Vega nor at what time of the day the picture had been taken. As the Vega moved by the test area at a good clip, her size was estimated at about 225 feet long and twenty-six feet across the beam, with a possible displacement of 350 tons.

A Navy source also disclosed that observers had noticed that the Soviet ship was unusually clean for a fishing vessel. There was no fishing gear in sight. The Soviet ship also carried various types of radar antenna.

The Navy spokesman confirmed the possibility that any sonar equipment the Vega carried below the surface for sounding and tracking fish could also be used to take soundings on the George Washington's missile tests.

The George Washington, which is based at New London, continued with her maneuvers despite knowledge of the Soviet trawler's presence, which was relayed to her from the blimp.

Also participating in the firing of the dummy missiles were the fleet tug U. S. S. Nipmuc and the submarine rescue ship U. S. S. Sunbird.

There were conflicting reports at the Pentagon as to whether any Soviet ships had been identified in the vicinity of the George Washington's firing tests.

A Navy spokesman emphasized that the Russians had had every right to be in the area under international law. Presumably the Vega's captain would have known that the tests were going on and probably saw the blimp that took the pictures.

With binoculars, the Russians on the Vega could have seen the dummy missiles popping to the surface and the long streams of water pouring upward.

The information that could have been obtained with underwater sonar or sound equipment would be valuable, although not perhaps vital, a Navy spokesman said.

The Russians could have measured the time it took for the slugs to be ejected, they could have observed whether more than one slug was fired at a time and they could have observed the characteristics of the nuclear-powered submarine herself.