

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MILITARY SEA TRANSPORTATION SERVICE
DANANG REPRESENTATIVE
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96337

TWP/gdy
7200

25 January 1967

From: Military Sea Transportation Service Representative, Danang
To: Masters, All USNS and MBTS-controlled Merchant Ships at Danang

Subj: Money Exchange at Danang; information concerning

Encl: (1) Chief of Customs, Danang ltr of 23 December 1966

1. You are advised, and your crew should be informed, that the laws of the Republic of Viet-Nam prohibit persons from illegally exchanging U.S. 'green' dollars in their possession. All exchanges of money must be accomplished at authorized money exchanges.

2. Currently, Customs Officials at Danang require the Master of the vessel and each crewmember to declare the total amount of American dollars in his possession upon arrival in Danang. At any time prior to your ship's departure, Customs Officials may board your ship and demand that individuals produce total dollars declared or a receipt from a legal money exchange indicating that they had monies exchanged. Persons unable to account for total dollars originally declared will be fined about 250 \$VN for each U. S. dollar which is not accountable. All fines are to be paid prior to the ship's departure.

3. In addition to the foregoing, as of February 16, 1967, Danang Customs Officials will establish a checkpoint at the liberty-boat landing area and require each individual to declare the U. S. dollars in his possession prior to leaving the port area on liberty. Upon return from liberty, each individual will be required to produce the same amount of U. S. dollars declared or a certificate indicating that the money was exchanged at an authorized money exchange. Local Customs/Police officials reserve the right and expect to spot check and search individuals to ensure proper declaration. Persons unable to account for total U. S. dollars originally declared will be fined about 250 \$VN (\$2.00 U. S.) for each U. S. dollar which is not accountable. Failing to pay the fine, it is expected that an individual would then be confined in a Vietnamese prison until the fine is paid.

It is understood that should an individual be accused of illegally exchanging U. S. monies beyond \$1000, he is then subject to trial by special Vietnamese tribunal. Presently, seven Americans are serving five years or more in Vietnamese prisons for illegal currency exchange actions.

4. Both the United States and Vietnamese governmental officials strongly recommend that crew advances/draws be made in local currency (piastres) to preclude monetary problems ashore. With the concurrence of Customs Officials, ships' Masters or a designated officer may make arrangements to exchange U. S. dollars/piastres for crew draws. This is accomplished at the Naval Support Activity, Danang at an exchange rate of 118 piastres per dollar. Facilities for individuals to officially exchange monies ashore are extremely limited. In all instances, receipts for dollars converted must be obtained to fulfill the custom law requirements. The hours of operation of the money exchange at NSA Danang are from 0800-1130 and 1300-1700 daily except Sunday when the exchange facility is closed in the afternoon.

5. In an effort to preclude incidents involving violations of Vietnamese Custom laws it is recommended that:

a. The subject of U. S. dollar exchange be thoroughly discussed with your local agent, and,

b. Information pertaining to U. S. dollar exchange be widely disseminated to all your officers and crewmembers.



T. W. PSTRAK
Commander, U. S. Navy

Copy to:
COMNAVSUPPACT Danang
CO MSTSO Saigon
American Vice Consul, Danang
Customs Officer, Danang
Port Captain, Danang
Provost Marshal, Danang