

132245Z APR 67

FM: FLEMING MARITIME ADMIN SPAN
TO: RUMFKB/METSO VIETNAM
RUMFKB/ALLEN MARAD-V SAIGON C/O NAVADVGP
BT

UNCLAS

RE RAT INFESTATION, SEA PORTS

LIVE AND DEAD RATS WERE DISCOVERED ON PRESIDENT TAYLOR IN SAN FRANCISCO THIS WEEK UPON OPENING HATCHES. RATS WERE LOCATED WITHIN RETROGRADE AIRCRAFT. SAN FRANCISCO USPHS NOW ISSUING STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL STEAMSHIP COMPANIES TO INTENSIFY AND CONTROL RAT INFESTATION ABOARD SHIPS CALLING SEA PORTS, PARTICULARLY RVN. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO DISSEMINATE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS TO MASTERS DEPARTING YOUR AREA FOR CONUS:

1. CONDUCT DAILY INSPECTIONS OF ALL CARGO SPACES IN PORT AND AT SEA PRIOR TO ARRIVAL CONUS.
 2. SET ALL AVAILABLE TRAPS WITH VARIED TYPES OF BAIT IN ALL CARGO HOLD. USE 12 TRAPS PER HOLD.
 3. IF ANY DEAD RATS ARE LOCATED, SPRAY COMPARTMENTS AND QUARTERS THOROUGHLY AND FREQUENTLY WITH STRONGEST D.D.T.-TYPE INSECTICIDE TO KILL FLEAS. DIAZINON 2 PER CENT PREFERRED, BUT PROBABLY NOT LOCALLY AVAILABLE.
 4. LOG ALL INSPECTIONS AND PREVENTATIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY SHIPS CREWS AND HAVE LOGS READY FOR INSPECTION BY USPHS INSPECTORS UPON ARRIVAL CONUS PORT.
- USPHS, SAN FRANCISCO, IS ISSUING DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS 4-14-67. WE WILL PREPARE INSTRUCTION TO BE RELEASED BY MARAD WASH TO ALL GENERAL AGENTS ASAP. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO URGE LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDERS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PREVENT RAT INFESTATION OF SHIPS FROM RETROGRADE CARGO. INSPECTIONS OF SHIPS CARGOES SHOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO LOADING ABOARD SHIP AND SHIPS OFFICERS TO BRING TO ATTENTION OF COMIZANT MILITARY COMMANDERS ANY SUSPECTED RETROGRADE CARGO. BRING ABOVE TO ATTENTION TO ALL FOREIGN SUB-AGENTS FOR MAXIMUM DISSEMINATION AND COMPLIANCE BY SHIP MASTERS; ALSO DISSEMINATION TO TIME-CHARTERED AND BERTH-LINE OPERATIONS. SHOULD SHIPS ARRIVE IN CONUS PORTS WITH RATS ABOARD, STRONG POSSIBILITY OF PROVISIONAL PERMITS BEING GRANTED WITH ATTENDANT DELAYS OF 2 WEEKS WITH ALTERNATIVE OF FUMIGATING SHIPS AT OWNERS EXPENSE. SO-542.

BT