

Nitze Unveils New Boat Here

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traveling back and forth from
off-shore rigs in the Gulf of
Mexico.

The Navy version is armed
with twin 50-caliber machine
guns in a "gun tub" over the
pilot house, and an over-and-
under mount on the aft deck
combining a single 50-caliber
machine gun and an 81mm
mortar.

The Swift is powered by twin
General Motors V12 diesel engi-
nes, with a pair of screw
propellers. It has bunk facilities
and a galley for its crew of one
officer and five enlisted men.

Nitze said the Swifts would
have immediate value in patrol
and surveillance operations
along the coast of South Viet
Nam, where the U.S. Navy is
working with the South Viet-
namese Navy to keep Viet Cong
guerrillas from getting any help
by sea.

The four Swifts in San Diego
are attached to Boat Support
Unit 1 at the Coronado Amphibi-
ous Base.

Nitze Unveils Here, Unveils New Boat

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By ROBERT ZIMMERMAN

The San Diego Union's Military Writer

Secretary of Navy Paul Nitze took a ride in San Diego harbor yesterday aboard the Navy's newest weapon for guerrilla warfare — a fast, heavily armed patrol boat called the Swift. He said Adm. David L. McDe-
nald, chief of naval operations, and Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus Vance had ex-
plained the situation in a Wash-
ington press conference and "I
wouldn't have anything to add."

The Navy took the wraps off the Swift, which was designed especially for patrol operations along the Vietnamese coast during a quick visit here by the secretary.

Nitze, flew to North Island from Long Beach yesterday afternoon, took a spin around the harbor in one of the four Swifts now based here, and, after having dinner with a group of Navy officers, left by plane for Wash-
ington.

DEFENDANT'S COMMENT

In a brief press conference aboard the cruiser Providence, where he was guest of Vice Adm. Lawson P. Harmon, commander of the 1st Fleet, Nitze declined to comment on the resignation of two admirals from top positions in the Bureau of Ships.

In response to a further ques-
tion, he did say that he did not
think the resignations were a
protest against policies of Secre-
tary of Defense Robert S. Mc-
Namara.

VERY MUCH PLEASED

Nitze said he was "very much
pleased" to see the results of
the Navy's search for a new
craft to operate in coastal
waters and rivers of Viet Nam.
He said the Navy is obtaining 54
of the Swifts, which have the
official designation of "Patrol
Craft Fast" or PCF.

The 30-foot aluminum boat
has a top speed of about 28
knots. Basically, it is the same
craft as one developed by Ste-
wart Seacraft Inc. of Berwick,
La., for use by oil well crews.

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