

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 engines, 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 Vietnamese 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 Amphibious Base.

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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.

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 flag officers, left by plane for Washington.

DECLINES COMMENT

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

He said Adm. David L. McDonald, chief of naval operations, and Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus Vance had explained the situation in a Washington press conference and "I wouldn't have anything to add."

In response to a further question, he did say that he did not think the resignations were a protest against policies of Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

'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 50-foot aluminum boat has a top speed of about 28 knots. Basically, it is the same craft as one developed by Stewart Sencraft, Inc., of Berwick, La., for use by oil well crews

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