

For the most part, the vessels we detected were engaged in normal fishing or routine between-village transit. Trawlers and large junks, such as the one at right, were the V.C.'s favorite type of infiltration vessel. It was impossible to know what unknown cargo a craft held unless it was boarded and searched, and it was impossible to board and search every vessel we detected.



The Viet Cong's favorite method of infiltration was to mingle the infiltrator among the ever-present friendly fishing boats and penetrate the rivers and canals during the cover afforded by darkness or the varying tropical weather. A single trawler, if it got through our blockade, could have supplied a company-sized V.C. force for several weeks.

We were aided in our task by the many smaller, inshore units—Coast Guard 82-footers, Navy "Swift" boats and South Vietnamese patrol craft—who patrolled the coastline, restricted and "no fishing" zones, and by the Market Time Aircraft which checked and re-checked all vessel movements fifty to one hundred miles to sea. Our logs show that not a single infiltrator slipped through this blockade successfully while we were on station.

