

# Why Anti Submarine Warfare?

It is a fact: free world nations depend almost entirely on seaborne commerce for economic security.

It is a fact: the United States depends on sea transportation for 66 of its 77 strategic raw materials.

It is a fact: if the United States is to survive during a national emergency, the sea lanes must remain open.

It is a fact: the avowed plan of international Communism is to dominate the world; to do this, the Communists must control the seas, and to control the seas, the Communists have developed a fleet of submarines numbering more than 450.

Today's Soviet Navy is oriented to deny the free world use of its vital sea lanes; the submarine is her big weapon. Thus the United States Navy's mission is to maintain freedom of the seas, and its big weapon is Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW).

This specialized method of warfare not only involves projecting United States military power over the world's oceans, but also protecting far flung merchant convoys and Navy task forces against attacks from above, on, and beneath the sea. At home, United States cities and military bases must be protected from missile attacks launched by submarines.

Americans must always keep in mind the primary goal of International Communism, for toward this end the Soviet planners have oriented their industrial output, designed their military machine, and shaped

their foreign policy.

When one stops and realizes that Soviet Russia has, since 1950, outbuilt the U.S. at a pace of 6 to 1 in submarine tonnage, 9 to 1 in destroyer tonnage, and 11 to 1 in cruiser tonnage, it is easier to see that Russia has a keen understanding of importance of controlling the seas.

But the United States is not in a ship-for-ship building contest with the Communists. Potential capability rather than size is the yard stick.

Admiral Arleigh A. Burke sums it up this way:

"Free world control of the sea is now being seriously challenged by increasing numbers of Soviet submarines. With future prospects of nuclear-powered submarines, armed with ballistic missiles, the submarine menace is a far greater danger to our national security than anything yet developed, including space vehicles."

The submarine threat is indeed grave. Problems involved in coping with it are many and complex. There are no simple answers.

Victory or defeat in future wars may well hinge upon this battle for control of the sea. The knowledge gained in Anti Submarine Warfare and the skill with which the instruments of this technique are utilized may decide this battle.

Gaining this knowledge and developing this skill is the task assigned to the USS BENNINGTON CVS-20.