



BENNINGTON: Ambassador of Good Will

BENNINGTON, like the other warships of our Atlantic and Pacific Fleets, works as hard when deployed in the Far East at establishing and maintaining a favorable impression of the American people as it does at its mission in Anti-Submarine Warfare.

Whenever the ship visits a port in Japan, the Philippines or another Western Pacific country, a constant effort is made to promote the nation's foreign policy on a personal basis.

Navymen have always had the reputation of being generous and quick to help those in need. This applies just as surely in the Far East as it does in our own country.

For instance, during the ship's most recent deployment to the Far East, October 1960 - May 2, 1961, the

ship pulled into Hong Kong for a visit the day after a fire had ravaged the Kowloon area of that colony. The fire had left 11,000 refugees from Communist China homeless. BENNINGTON quickly allocated \$1,000 from its People-to-People Fund to buy the Chinese 600 blankets.

During this same cruise, BENNINGTON transported 30,000 pounds of "Operation Handclasp" clothing, toys, and books which were distributed by the ship to relief organizations and orphanages in Manila and Subic Bay, Philippines; Hong Kong; Okinawa; Japan; and Taiwan.

At almost all the ports visited in the Western Pacific, tours and luncheons were held for citizens of the country being visited. Parties were held for children, luncheons were held for business leaders and students, and the story of democracy and the American way of life was spread at all levels of society.