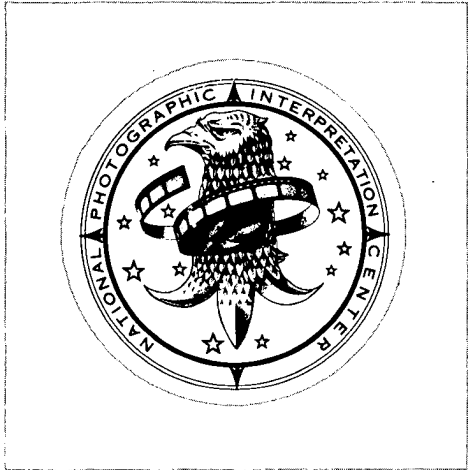


~~TOP SECRET~~

[Redacted Box]

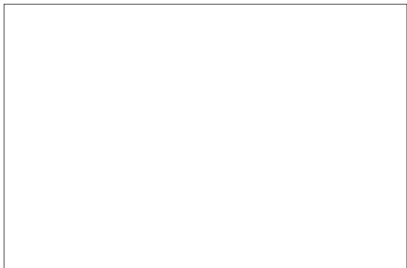
25X1



NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER

**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**SHMEL-CLASS MOTOR GUNBOAT
USSR**



25X1

~~TOP SECRET~~

[Redacted Box]

25X1

**JULY 1970
COPY NO 118
5 PAGES
PIR-051/70**

GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

Page Denied

TOP SECRET RUFF

25X1

25X1

SHMEL-CLASS RIVER GUNBOAT

ABSTRACT

1. The Shmel-class river gunboat (PGMR) introduced by the Soviets in the latter part of 1967 is deployed on the Amur-Ussuri river system along the Far East border with China and in the Danube river delta along the border with Romania. The Shmel PGMR is being produced on the Black Sea at the Kerch Naval Base and Shipyard Kamysh Burun 532.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

2. Since early 1966, the Soviet Union has strengthened forces along its borders, including the river patrol forces which are operated by the border security forces (KGB). The first sighting of a deployed Shmel-class river gunboat was at Iman KGB Base, [redacted]. The base is on the Ussuri River adjacent to the Chinese province of Heilung-Kiang (Figure 1). Subsequently, Shmel-class PGMRs were observed operating on the Amur River at Blagoveshchensk KGB Base [redacted] and at Khabarovsk Naval Base and Shipyard Amur Flot [redacted]. Also, 12 to 14 of these gunboats were reported to be at Izmail, near the border with Romania, in July 1969.¹

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

3. The Shmel-class PGMR [redacted] It is armed with a modified PT-76 tank turret mounted forward on a base that is larger than the usual PT-76 base. As a result, on overhead photography the turret appears to be larger than it is. A twin AA-gun mount is aft.

25X1

25X1

4. The first Shmel-class PGMR to be observed on KEYHOLE photography was at Nikolayev Shipyard Northern 61 Kommuna 445 in August 1967, and limited production may have taken place there in 1967 and 1968. Kerch Naval Base and Shipyard Kamysh Burun 532 has been actively engaged in serial production of the craft since before January 1969, and seven were under construction at the shipyard [redacted]. The Kerch shipyard is the only one known to be producing this PGMR in 1970. Komsomolsk Shipyard Amur 199 in the Far East Military District has not been involved in production of this class but has been the principal receiving and assembly point for PGMR hulls and superstructures shipped by rail from the western USSR. PGMR hulls without superstructures, at Komsomolsk for assembly, are shown in Figure 3.

25X1

5. Through the end of April 1970, at least 50 Shmel-class PGMRs have been counted. On KEYHOLE photography, 31 have been observed deployed in the Far East, and seven have been seen under construction at Kerch in April 1970. These are in addition to the 12 to 14 that were reported seen on the border with Romania.

25X1

TOP SECRET RUFF

25X1

TOP SECRET RUFF

25X1

25X1

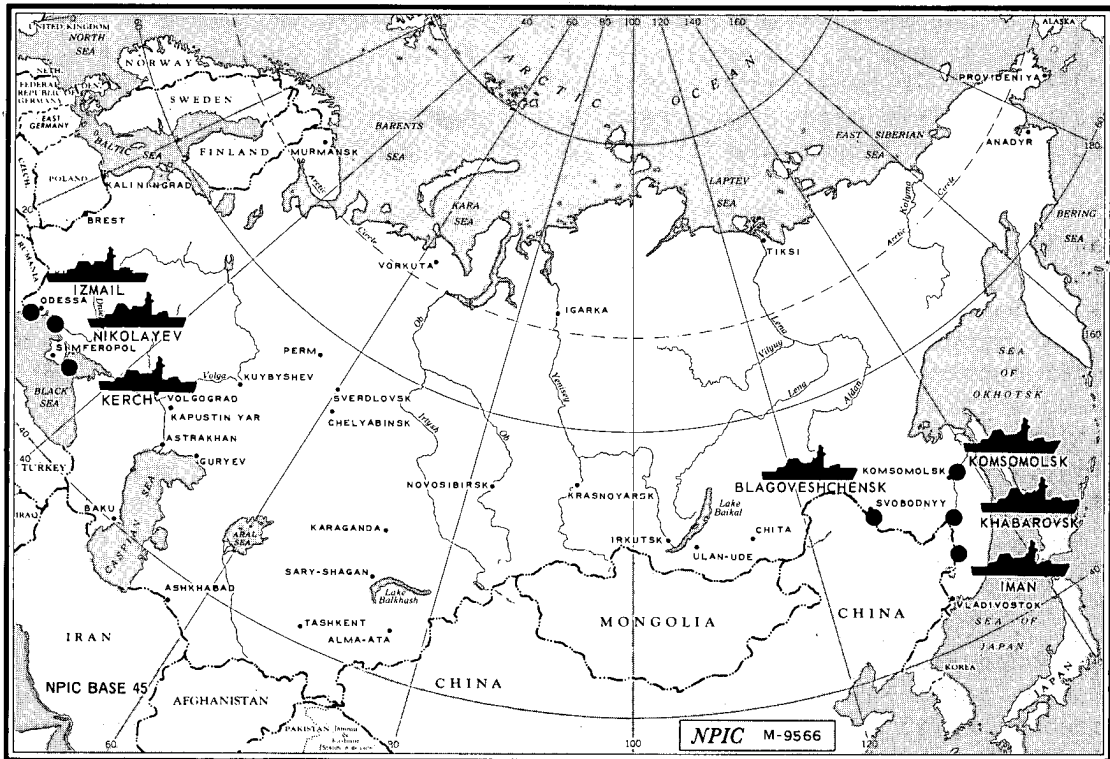
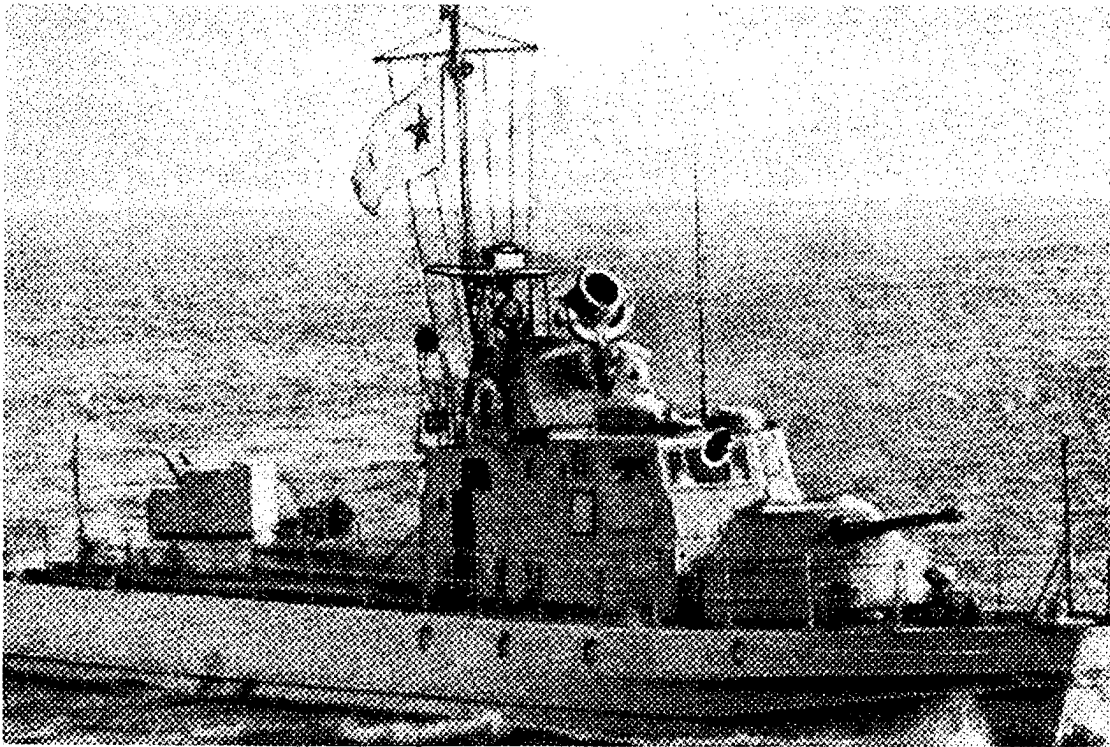


FIGURE 1. THE SHMEL-CLASS RIVER GUNBOAT (PGMR) AND LOCATIONS WHERE IT HAS BEEN SIGHTED

TOP SECRET RUFF

25X1

25X1

Page Denied

TOP SECRET RUFF

25X1

25X1

REFERENCES

25X1

The surface photograph was reproduced from the DIA document cited below.

MAPS OR CHARTS

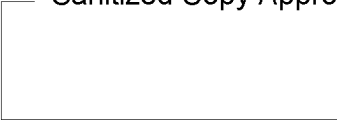
ACIC. US Air Target Charts, Series 200, scale 1:200,000

25X1

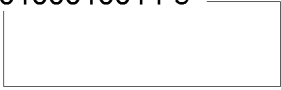
25X1

TOP SECRET RUFF

25X1



TOP SECRET RUFF



25X1

25X1

DOCUMENT

1. DIA. Intelligence Bulletin 97-70, 19 May 70, B-5 (SECRET



25X1

25X1



NPIC Project 143262NK

TOP SECRET RUFF



25X1

25X1

TOP SECRET



25X1

TOP SECRET



25X1