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CONGRESSMAN CHAMBERLAIN REPORTS DECLINE IN
FREE WORLD SHIPPING TO NORTH VIETNAM

Washington, D. C. Congressman Charles E. Chamberlain (R.-Mich.) reported Wednesday in a speech in the House of Representatives that 60 ships flying the flags of Free World countries delivered cargoes to North Vietnam during the first half of 1969, a reduction from the 78 vessels of the same period last year.

"The downward trend in the volume of this traffic from a year ago is encouraging, but it is not good enough," the 6th District Republican commented, "More must still be done to dry up this source of supply of the enemy."

Chamberlain indicated he was urging the Administration to take further action to stop the flow of goods to Hanoi by Free World shipping, adding, "During June this traffic consisted of 6 ships flying the British flag with 2 each bearing the registry of the Somali Republic and Cyprus plus one of Singapore. While exact information about the cargoes involved is classified, I have seen the reports and am satisfied that strategic goods are included as well as other supplies, which can only help North Vietnam maintain its aggressive policy in the South."

"While the incidents of terrorist mortar attacks and assassinations make bigger headlines, the constant flow of these supplies, which help to underwrite a policy of wholesale murder, is obviously of crucial importance," Chamberlain told the House.

The Congressman commended President Nixon's initiatives for peace and his move to withdraw troops from Vietnam as "clearly a significant milestone in the course of that tragic conflict," but added that, "The struggle is far from over. Despite the announcement that a good number of our servicemen will be returning home, we still have a very substantial force stationed in South Vietnam and we owe it to these men, who are wearing our uniform to put forth our best efforts to deny the enemy the wherewithal to continue its aggression."

Of the 60 Free World vessels trading with Hanoi during the first six months of this year, 42 flew the flag of the United Kingdom, Chamberlain noted.