

Fliers Spot Red Ship With Missiles--Maybe

(Editors — A UPI news and photo team flew over the blockade area to check on the removal of missiles from Cuba by Soviet bloc cargo ships. Here is their report.)

MATTHEW TOWN, Great Inagua Island, Bahamas (UPI)—The signal lights of a Soviet freighter wallowing through the blockaded sea lanes northeast of Cuba blinked furiously to establish recognition as our plane flew overhead.

A United Press International news and photographic team checking the blockade line in a chartered seaplane sighted the Russian

cargo vessel late yesterday about 100 miles northeast of Cuba. It was headed toward the northeast, obviously aiming for the crooked island passage through the southeastern Bahamas.

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Pilot Dean H. Franklin of Miami made a low pass with our amphibious plane. The name of the vessel was unreadable on the grey hull but the Soviet red flag with crossed hammer and sickle painted on the smokestack was clear.

Most of the dozen crewmembers on the bridge had binoculars raised to their eyes to identify and fol-

low the progress of the plane. They walked across the bridge as the plane flew over and circled the ship.

At least six military vehicles could be counted on the deck of the vessel. On the afterdeck was a long tarpaulin-covered mound.

Missiles?

It was impossible to determine the contents of the deck cargo by aerial inspection. Judging from the waterline on the side of the ship, the vessel appeared to be about half loaded.

No armament was visible.

About 50 miles to the south of the Soviet vessel, another cargo

ship was headed on the same northeast course away from Cuba. It could not be identified from the air and held no items of interest on deck.

Whereas yesterday's flight of some 500 miles over the sea lanes failed to show any sign of U. S. warships or planes, a return to the area this morning found the U.S. Navy's light cruiser No. 152, about 10 miles off the southeastern tip of Cuba. The cruiser was heading north through the Windward Passage between Cuba and Haiti with a PV Neptune submarine-hunter plane on its flank.