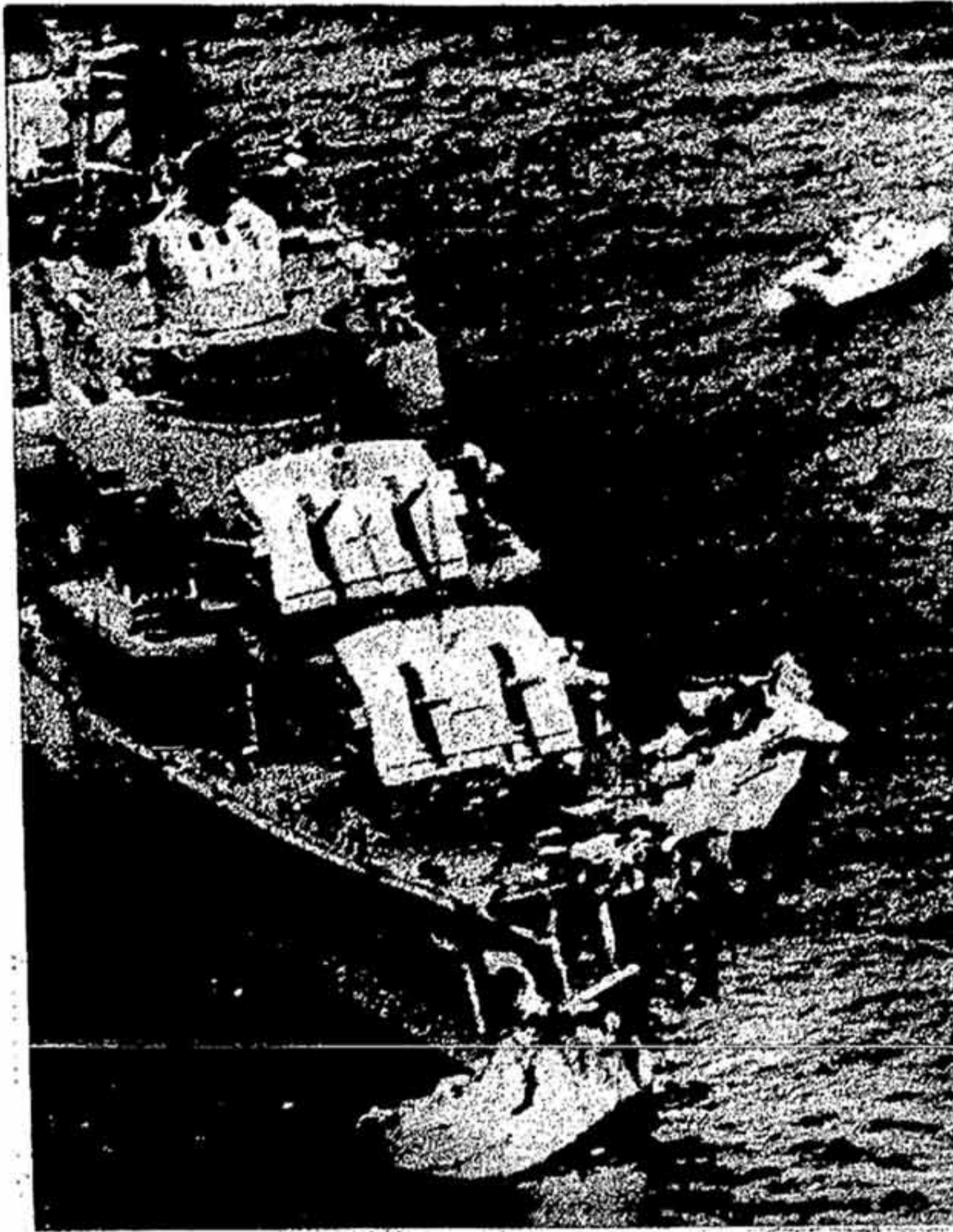


11 Die, 7 Hurt as L.B. Warships Collide



Skippers Unable to Explain Crash in Fog Off Newport

By BOB SANDERS

The commanders of two Navy destroyers that crashed together in heavy morning fog off Newport Beach, killing 11 men and injuring seven, could offer no explanation of the collision Tuesday night.

Involved were the USS Ammen, heading for deactivation at San Diego after an illustrious career, and the USS Collett, on trial maneuvers after refurbishing at the naval shipyard here.

Captains of the ships, both commanders, granted press conferences but refused to divulge particulars as to their speed or maneuvers immediately preceding the collision. They said those matters would be investigated by a Navy Board of Inquiry.

THE COLLETT, commanded by Cmdr. Albert T. Ford, 873 Lees Ave., was heading north-northwest when it smashed into the port, or left, after section of the south-bound Ammen, commanded by Cmdr. Zaven Mukhalian of Pacific Beach, Calif.

Eleven men, all on the Ammen, were killed. Four were in the supply office. The others were in the near vicinity but their exact positions were not known. Three men aboard the Collett were injured.

The bodies of two men were imbedded in the wreckage of the Ammen superstructure and were not removed until that vessel was towed into the Long Beach Naval Shipyard 10 hours after the crash. One body was carried off by the bow of the Collett.

Ens. Gilbert S. Brown, 23, of Ocean Beach, one of the six men in the Ammen supply room at the time of the crash, suffered scalp and mouth lacerations and an injured shoulder.

"I was standing in the supply office," he related later, "I don't have any idea

exactly what I was doing. I heard a crash and tried to run out. I had no idea what had happened until I finally got outside. Then they told me we had been rammed. I later learned it was the Collett that hit us."

Asked if he had any idea why he suffered comparatively minor injuries while four others in the room were killed, he said:

"I was in the forward part of the room. They were aft. That and the fact that the Good Lord was good to me."

The Ammen, whose superstructure was demolished by the impact, suffered several holes below the water line, flooding the aft engine room and the forward fire room.

THE SHIP LISTED 11 degrees, according to Cmdr. Mukhalian, but repair crews managed to cut the list to three degrees by pumping most of the water overboard.

"We were very lucky that we had just unloaded all our ammunition, including depth

charges, at Seal Beach before starting for San Diego," Cmdr. Mukhalian said. "Otherwise both our ships could have been blown up."

An earlier report that fire had broken out aboard the Ammen was emphatically denied by the commander.

"There was no fire and no panic," he said. "All our men responded very well. I am only very regretful for the loss of 11 good men."

CAPTAINS of both destroyers said their radar was in operation at the time of the crash but neither knew the other ship was in the immediate vicinity.

The Collett, with Capt. William H. Shea, 4219 Linden Ave., Long Beach, aboard, was heading 300 degrees north-northwest in a patchy but heavy fog when the crash occurred, according to Cmdr. Ford.

"All of a sudden a ship appeared out of the fog," Cmdr. Ford said. "I ordered the en-

gines reversed and full right rudder and the crew reacted immediately. But it was too late.

"We backed off and radioed the Ammen asking if they needed assistance. They replied they did not. So we stood by until help for the injured arrived."

THE COLLETT, which had just gone through fleet rehabilitation and modernization repairs at the shipyard here, lost about 30 feet of its bow in the collision and left its anchor in the twisted superstructure of the Ammen.

All seven injured and eight of the dead were taken from the ships by small craft.

The injured were treated at Hoag Memorial Hospital, Newport Beach, and later transferred to the Navy hospital ship USS Haven at the Naval Station here. None was reported critical Tuesday night.

The visibility at the time of the accident was listed at

WITH ITS BOW RIPPED OPEN, THE USS COLLETT STAGGERS BACK TO ITS LONG BEACH BASE

Navy Releases List of Dead, Injured in Coastal Tragedy

- The official Navy casualty list:
- THE DEAD**
- Lindemann, Gary E., ET3, USNR, Las Vegas, and husband of Jacqueline, Chatsworth.
 - Long, Roy, Storekeeper 1/C, USN, husband of Jean Mina, Whittier.
 - Espinosa, Jesus P., Seaman, USN, husband of Minerva Catherine, San Diego.
 - Wooley, Thomas A., Storekeeper 3/C, USN, Deland, Fla.
 - Liles, Wilbur C., Apprentice Seaman, USN, Miami.
 - Daniels, Delmar L., Ap-
- THE INJURED**
- ABOARD THE AMMEN:**
- Leunard Larson, 42, Chief Yeoman, Spring Valley, head injuries;
 - R. A. Jones, Fireman Apprentice, Sweetwater, Texas, head injuries;
 - Charles Dwight Wilder, Fireman Apprentice, Santa Fe, N. M., cuts both legs;
- ABOARD THE COLLETT:**
- Harvey E. Watkins, 21, Seaman, Sanger, Calif., broken left ankle, possibly broken left foot;
 - Patrick E. Medeiros, 18, Seaman, Honolulu, bruises of upper left thigh, released;
 - John I. Romero, 18, Cheyenne, amputation of left great toe.

U.N. Takes Over in Congo Capital

LEOPOLDVILLE (UPI)—United Nations forces Tuesday night began the peaceful take-over of this seething Congolese capital where anti-Communist opponents of Premier Patrice Lumumba were gathering their strength for an attempt to oust him today.

Lumumba, who returned Tuesday from Stanleyville after leaving the government leaderless for a week, faced a vote of censure in the Senate unless he could explain recent violent declarations, including an ultimatum that he would call in Russian troops if Belgian forces did not leave Congolese soil.

The ultimatum was served on Dr. Ralph Bunche, U. N. representative in the Congo, without prior consultation either with the Congolese parliament or the cabinet. It drew from Bunche the rejoinder that Lumumba was the first prime minister in history to deliver an ultimatum to the U. N.

U.N. Halts Action on Cuba Fuss

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (UPI)—The Security Council Tuesday rejected Soviet protests and tossed Cuba's quarrel with the United States over to the Organization of American States.

The decision came after two days of U.S.-Soviet debate marked by a torrid last-minute exchange in which the two big powers warned each other to keep hands off Prime Minister Fidel Castro's revolutionary regime.

By a vote of 8 to 0 with 2 abstentions, the 11-nation council approved an Argentine-Ecuadorian resolution to halt action on the Cuban complaint until the 21-nation Organization of American States reports back on its efforts to resolve the dispute.

Coffee Price Cut

NEW YORK (AP)—The long stalemate in U. S. coffee prices ended Tuesday with a two-cent wholesale reduction by major roasters, which brought prices to their lowest level in 10 years.

The cuts are expected to be passed along to retail levels.

FIERY OLD WM SOUNDS THE ALARM

"I've just put in a new flower garden," Weatherman shouted when the Fire Department answered his phone call.

"Where's the fire?" a burly voice inquired.

"...and the plants are expensive..."

"Where is Foresight the fire?"

"...oh, the fire's next door." WM replied, "I don't want you firemen walking on my garden when you arrive."

U. N. OFFICIALS were moving swiftly to remove Congolese resentments and eliminate any excuse for intervention by Russia.

(In Moscow, Russia demanded that the United States immediately withdraw a 20-man military mission at Leopoldville.

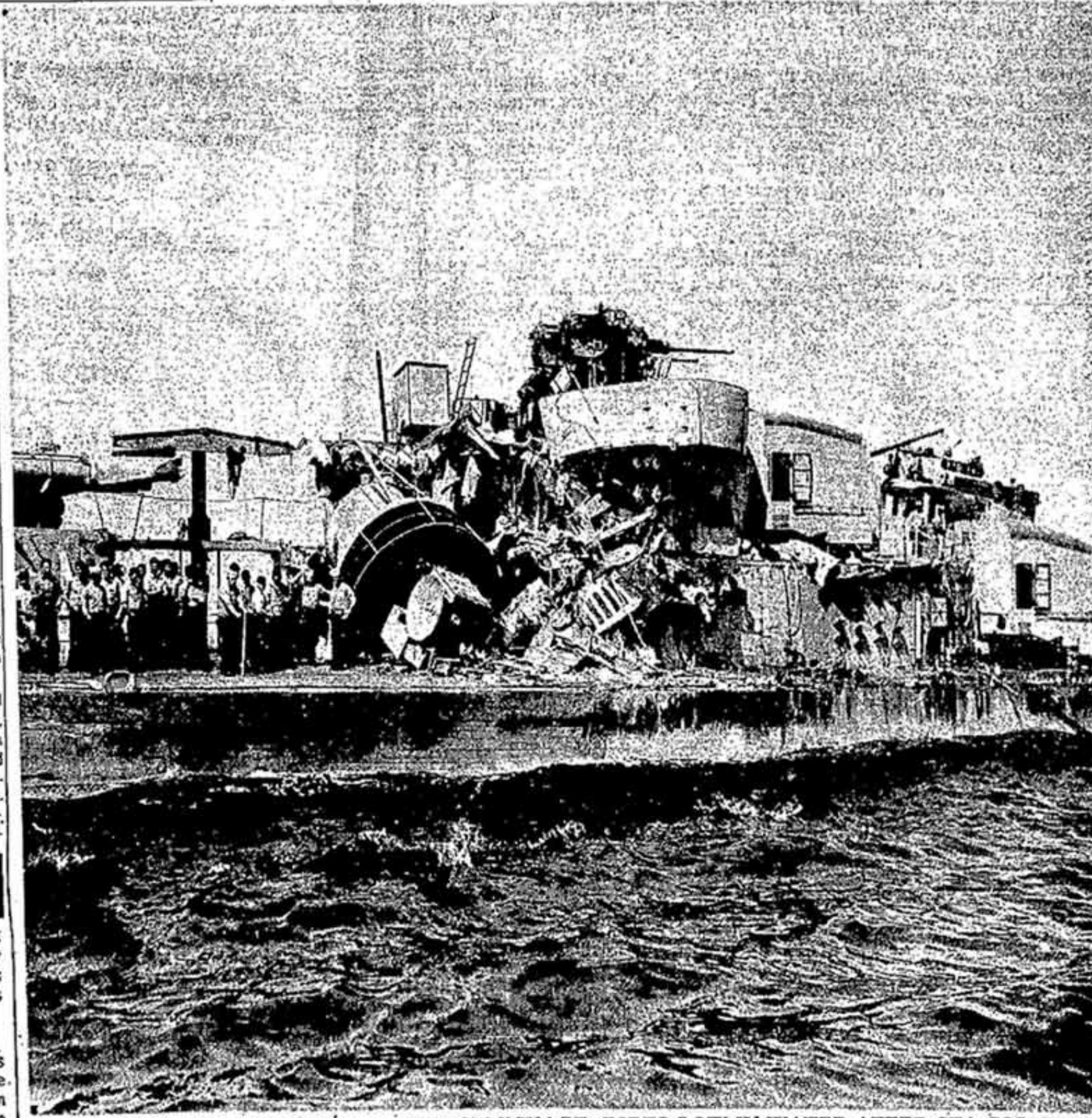
(Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko told U. S. Charge d'Affaires Edward Freers that unless the demand were met, "the Soviet government will have to draw the appropriate conclusions from this in its action."

(The Russian demand brought an immediate reply from the State Department in Washington that the Soviet Union was conducting a "desperate and almost frantic" propaganda campaign against U. N. attempts to end the Congo crisis.)

ONLY THE Soviet Union and Poland abstained on the resolution, which also urged all countries to abstain from any action that might aggravate U.S.-Cuban tensions.

Soviet-proposed amendments to delete any mention of OAS in the resolution were turned down with only the Soviet Union and Poland in favor. Tunisia abstained.

Cuba announced it accepted the decision of the council, but would have preferred a condemnation of the United States. Cuba charged Washington was committing economic aggression against her.



USS AMMEN, ITS DECK COVERED WITH WRECKAGE, RIDES LOW IN WATER AFTER SEA COLLISION

Copter Crashes on Damaged Ship

A Marine Corps helicopter, carrying two doctors, crashed to the deck of one of the two damaged destroyers off Newport Beach Tuesday. Miraculously, no one was injured.

"It was just like you'd kick in a big can," one of the first rescue workers described the scene of the collision.

These and other unusual sidelights of the tragic collision of U.S. Navy destroyers near Long Beach are contained in a detailed article on Page C-6.

Inside Today's INDEPENDENT

CITY Council approves \$32,300,000 budget, pays \$32 for all city employees and a 12.7 per cent gas rate increase. Page A-8.

FIRE rages in Angeles National Forest, where 1,500 men battle blaze in 100-degree weather. Page D-1.

