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Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ 116-32 ISCAP Appeal

Document # lh-3

CHINA: THE FIRST OPERATIONAL MING-CLASS ATTACK SUBMARINE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AT THE LU-SHUN SUBMARINE BASE ON THE LIAOTUNG PENINSULA IN RECENT SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY.

TWO MING-CLASS SUBMARINES WERE FIRST SEEN FITTING OUT IN 1971, ONE AT WU-CHANG NEAR WU-HAN AND THE OTHER AT KIANG-NAN IN SHANGHAI. BOTH PROBABLY BECAME OPERATIONAL AFTER A FITTING OUT PERIOD OF SIX TO NINE MONTHS.

THE MING-CLASS RESEMBLES THE R-CLASS BUT IS BROADER IN THE BEAM AND HAS A STERN FIN. THE CHINESE PROBABLY HAVE MADE INTERNAL MODIFICATIONS, INCLUDING AN ADDITIONAL ENGINE AND MORE STORAGE BATTERIES.

CHINA'S OPERATIONAL INVENTORY OF SOME 53 SUBMARINES INCLUDES ABOUT 26 R-CLASS UNITS. THE CHINESE ARE TURNING OUT EIGHT TO TEN R-CLASS SUBMARINES PER YEAR, BUT THE RATE OF PRODUCTION OF MING-CLASS UNITS IS NOT KNOWN. CIA Statute

Declassified Under Authority of the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel,
E.O. 13526, sec. 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP Appeal No. 2018-074, doc. 4; Declassification Date: Nov. 6, 2023

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