

Another ship goes missing

A VIETNAM-bound cargo ship went missing last night in what is believed to be the second incursion by Chinese officials into Hongkong waters this week.

The 385-tonne Khanh Ho 04 told the Marine Department before radio contact was lost that it had been boarded by 13 uniformed Chinese armed with guns at 5.30 pm near Ninepins.

There were 21 Vietnamese crew aboard the ship, which was loaded with second-hand goods vans and cars heading to Qui Nhon.

An Auxiliary Air Force helicopter, the Royal Navy HMS Plover and Marine Police launches went to the scene but did not find any ship in the area.

Meanwhile, another Vietnamese ship with 24 crew aboard, the 716-tonne Phu Quoc, reported being boarded by more than 10 uniformed armed Chinese just before 8 pm near Ling Ting island, outside Hongkong waters.

The Political Adviser's office has been asked to seek clarification from the local branch of the New China News Agency on a reported incursion off Stanley on Tuesday and the disappearance of three Vietnam-bound ships.