

# Battleship New Jersey Will Go to Viet

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1—(UPI)—The Defense Department announced Tuesday it would send the reactivated battleship USS New Jersey to bombard Vietnam targets with its 16-inch guns. It will be the World's only combat capable battleship.

The Pentagon said it would spend \$27 million and 10 months to take the New Jersey out of mothballs at Philadelphia and refit it for duty with the Seventh Fleet.

The Navy recently completed an \$800,000 study to determine whether or not it would be economically feasible to refurbish a battlewagon for duty in Vietnam. Tuesday's announcement was expected.

The New Jersey, retired 10 years

ago, is equipped with nine 16-inch guns which can hurl a 1900-pound projectile 21 miles.

Battleship proponents claim the big guns could hit 85 percent of the inland targets now being bombed in South and North Vietnam.

There are no battleships now active in the U.S. Navy. Three others — the Iowa, Wisconsin and Missouri—also are in mothballs.

Nor are there any serviceable bat-

tleships operating in other navies, which will make the New Jersey the only combat-ready battleship in the World.

All naval powers began phasing out battleships after World War II because they were considered incompatible with the nuclear age. Their relatively large size and slow speed were considered insurmountable disadvantages in air-oriented warfare.