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COUNTRY NORTH KOREA

DOI

12 FEBRUARY 1968

SUBJECT COMMENTS ON IMPLICATIONS OF REPORTED RELOCATION

OF USS PUEBLO

ACQ SOUTH KOREA, SEOUL (12 FEB 1968) FIELD NO.

SOURCE THE FOLLOWING REPORT

THAT THE USS PUEBLO HAS BEEN MOVED FROM ITS

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED LOCATION IN CHANGJAHWAN-MAN (CHANGCHIGON-MAN BAY) TO MUNP'YONG-NI.

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- 1. A STUDY OF NATIONAL CHARTS OF THE WONSAN BAY AREA WOULD INDICATE
 THAT THE FORMER LOCATION OF USS PUEBLO WAS AT 39-19N 127-27E, PLACING HER
 IN CHANGJAHWAN-MAN (CHOJIKAN) AND PROBABLY MOVED TO MUNP'YONG-NI (WONSAN)
 LOCATED AT 39-18N 127-27E. MUNP'YONG-NI IS THE NAVAL PORT AT THE MOUTH
 OF THE ESTUARY.

 MUNP'YONG-NI NAVAL BASE INDICATES (b)(1)
 SECURITY SQUADRON WHARF WITH SECURITY SQUADRON PERSONNEL BARRACKS ADJACENT.
- 2. POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF REPORTED RELOCATION OF <u>USS PUEBLO</u> ARE AS FOLLOWS:
 - A. DURING WARTIME OR WITH SHIPS TO BE ON A HAZARDOUS MISSION, IF A SHIP IS APPREHENDED WITHOUT PRIOR ABILITY TO SCUTTLE, EXPERIENCE BASED ON PRACTICE OF MANY NATIONS IS TO HAVE BOOBY-TRAP TYPE DEMOLITIONS SYSTEMS PREVENT THE EXPLOITATION OF THE CAPTURED SHIP BY THE ENEMY. POSITIONING OF THE USS PUEBLO AT THE REPORTED LOCATION IN CHANGJAHWAN-MAN WOULD HAVE PERMITTED THOROUGH INSPECTION FOR POSSIBLE BOOBY TRAP DEMOLITIONS SYSTEMS, INCLUDING EXTERIOR HULL, PRIOR TO MOVING THE SHIP TO A LOCATION WHERE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE COULD BE DONE TO PORT FACILITIES.
 - B. POSITIONING OF THE <u>USS PUEBLO</u> IN A LOCATION REMOTE FROM PORT FACILITIES WOULD HAVE PERMITTED THE REMOVAL OF SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT IN AN AREA PERMITTING BETTER SECURITY THAN IN A MORE

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POPULATED AREA;

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INDIVIDUAL NORTH KOREAN SEAMEN GUARD OR OTHER PERSONNEL HAD LESS CHANCES OF LOOTING PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND OTHER ARTICLES WITH SHIP IN AN AREA WHERE PERSONNEL DID NOT HAVE MORE IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO PORT.

- C. ADDITIONAL SPECULATION IS THAT UNTIL A MORE THOROUGH
 REMOVAL AND/OR INSPECTION OF SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT ARE ACCOMPLISHED,
 POSSIBLY WITH PRESENCE SOVIET TECHNICIANS, NORTH KOREA WOULD
 PREFER NOT TO REVEAL THE EXTENT OF SOVIET PARTICIPATION OR
 RELIANCE ON SOVIETS FOR THIS ASPECT OF EXPLOITATION.
- D. ONCE EQUIPMENT IS REMOVED, AND POSSIBLE BOOBY TRAP THREAT IS RESOLVED, THERE WOULD BE MUCH TO BE GAINED BY THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE SHIP'S WIRING SYSTEM AND OTHER FEATURES WHICH COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AT DOCKSIDE OR NAVAL PORT MORE EASILY THAN IN THE PREVIOUS LOCATION.
- E. ANOTHER SPECULATION IS THAT WITH THE POSSIBLE HARDENING OF RESPECTIVE POSTURES AT PANMUNJOM AND WITH PUBLISHED STATEMENTS BY THE ROK SIDE ATTRIBUTED TO PRESIDENT PAK CHONG-HUI THAT THE ONLY WAY TO TREAT WITH THE NORTH KOREANS WAS WITH FORCE, NORTH KOREA FELT THAT THE PREVIOUS LOCATION LEFT THE USS PUEBLO IN A POSITION TOO EXPOSED TO POSSIBLE UDT FROGMEN ATTACK, HENCE MOVED

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Approved for Release: 2019/07/24 C06808279 PAGE 4 OF 4 PAGES IT TO A CONSIDERABLY MORE SECURE AREA OF MUNP YONG-NI.

3. FIELD DISSEM: STATE (AMBASSADOR, DCM AND POL COUNSELOR ONLY)
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