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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2001



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

Current Status of North Korean Merchant Shipping

EO 12958 6.1(c)>25Yrs



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Copy No. 11



24 January 1968

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
24 January 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Current Status of North Korean Merchant Shipping

North Korea's minuscule merchant fleet consists of only four dry cargo ships that engage in the coastal trade. Two of these are recently purchased refrigerator ships. None of these four ships is known to be outside of North Korean waters. The following is a list of these ships and their characteristics:

	<u>Where Built</u>	<u>Year Built</u>	<u>GRT</u>	<u>DWT</u>	<u>Draft (Feet)</u>	<u>Speed (Knots)</u>
Pyong Hwa (Pkuen Hoa)	Bulgaria	1960	1,935	3,000	18	12.2
Wisong Ho (Wisong)	North Korea	1961	2,000	3,000	18	N.A.
MAG I (ex Langjokull)	Denmark	1959	1,987	2,000	16	13.1
MAG II (ex Drangjokull)	Netherlands	1961	1,909	2,100	16	13.1

In addition to the above, there are three dry cargo ships flying the Polish flag which belong to the Korean-Polish Shipping Company (Chopolship). One Greek ship is operating under a North Korean time charter. These ships and their last known positions are as follows:

- Angelica N.* (Greek, 3,596 GRT) -- departed Singapore 19 January for Palembang.
 - Adolf Warski* (Polish, 6,718 GRT) -- ETA Penang 17 January.
 - Mickiewicz* (Polish, 4,344 GRT) -- departed Chungjin 1 January.
 - Narwik* (Polish, 7,065 GRT) -- completed loading in Santiago de Cuba 19 January.
- Also scheduled to load sugar in Guantanamo.

Only the foreign ships have been identified in North Korean waters or en route to North Korea. The Rumanian-flag ship *Bucuresti* (9,224 GRT)

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arrived in Chungjin on 22 January. The British-flag ship *Pundua* (7,295 GRT) is due to arrive in Hungnam on 24 January.

North Korea's seaborne foreign trade, the bulk of it with Communist countries, is carried entirely by foreign-flag ships. In 1967, there were 160 calls by Free World ships and 132 by Communist ships, as shown in the following tabulation:

<u>Flag</u>	<u>Number</u>
Japanese	99
British	23
Greek	14
Lebanese	5
Norwegian	2
Cypriot	5
Panamanian	1
West German	1
Maltese	3
Italian	3
Dutch	3
Danish	1
Total Free World	160
USSR	96 (est.)
Polish	24
Cuban	7
Rumanian	2
East German	2
Bulgarian	1
Total Communist	132

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Late information indicates that there are four, and possibly five, Soviet ships currently in North Korean ports and one scheduled to arrive. They are:

In Nampo

GORNOALTAYSK (3,725 GRT) in port 20 January to load coal for Japan.

KOVROV (9,250 GRT) arrived 17 January.

VYATKALES (3,261 GRT) awaiting pier 18 January.

In Hungnam

TIKSI (9,501 GRT) ETA 23 January from Nampo.

VOLSK (9,455 GRT) to complete unloading 21 January, thence to Vladivostok.

Scheduled

PEREKOP (11,089 GRT) in Japan as of 21 January. Directed to take steps to depart Yokohama and arrive Chongjin in January.

Further analysis of ship arrivals shows six arrivals of Chinese Communist ships at North Korean ports in 1967. No Chinese Communist ships are currently known to be in North Korean ports.

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