

Executive Registry
69-674

22nd MAR 1969

4 February 1969

The Honorable Stuart Symington
The United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator Symington:

Per your request and in reply to your question, neither this Agency nor I personally have had anything to do with the mission of the USS PUEBLO, the ship itself, or any of its crew. As you will note, in the sidelined portion of the attachment, the Department of Defense made a statement on January 24, 1968 setting forth the facts about Commander Bucher and the PUEBLO. They are accurately presented. May I make one additional point: The information which the PUEBLO was tasked to gather during this mission was of tactical and departmental interest to the United States Navy.

I hope that the foregoing is responsive to your inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Richard Helms
Director

Attachment - 1

Xerox of NEW YORK TIMES, Jan. 25, 1968,
"Texts of Purported Confession and Pentagon's Reply".

RHelms/ecd - 4/2/69

Distribution: Orig - addressee via Mr. Maury
1 - Mr. Maury
1 - ER ✓

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