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FBIS 52***** (OUT OF SEQUENCE) (SUB FOR 48)

PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS U.S. BOMBING OF SHIP OFF DRV

B2A2128 PEKING NCNA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN CHINESE 2046 GMT 24 AUG 72 B

(TEXT) PEKING, 24 AUGUST 1972--STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 24 AUGUST 1972.

ON 22 AUGUST 1972, U.S. PLANES FLAGRANTLY BOMBED A LIFEBOAT BELONGING TO THE CHINESE MERCHANT SHIP "RED FLAG NO. 151," WHICH IS ANCHORED AT SEA NEAR (YU) ISLAND, NGHE AN PROVINCE, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM; DESTROYING THE CHINESE LIFEBOAT AND KILLING FIVE CHINESE SEAMEN, INCLUDING CAPTAIN CHOU MAO-CHEN, DEPUTY POLITICAL COMMISSAR MA CHUAN-CHU, AND DECK HANDS CHANG HSIANG-PIN, HSIEN MAO-LIANG, AND FANG SHU-TUNG OF THE SHIP "RED FLAG NO. 151."

THIS IS A SERIOUS ACT OF U.S. IMPERIALISM TO OUTRAGEOUSLY DISRUPT INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FREEDOM OF THE SEAS AND IS A SERIOUS PROVOCATION AGAINST THE CHINESE PEOPLE.

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE EXPRESS THEIR GREATEST INDIGNATION AT THIS AND LODGE A STRONG PROTEST WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE LEGAL RIGHT TO DEMAND INDEMNITY PAYMENT.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MUST IMMEDIATELY STOP ALL PROVOCATIVE ACTS AGAINST CHINESE MERCHANT SHIPS AND GUARANTEE THAT NO SIMILAR INCIDENTS WILL OCCUR IN THE FUTURE.

24 AUG 2156Z EH/GS*****

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PRC PROTEST

FOR YOUR INFORMATION B

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PEKING NCNA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN CHINESE AT 2046 GMT ON 24 AUGUST
CARRIES A 280-WORD PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT DATED 24 AUGUST
STRONGLY PROTESTING AGAINST THE ALLEGED BOMBING BY U.S. PLANES OF A
LIFEBOAT BELONGING TO A CHINESE MERCHANT SHIP OFF THE COAST OF NGHE AN
PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM, ON 22 AUGUST.

DETAILS AS AVAILABLE.

24 AUG 2110Z EH/MC*****