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SC No. 07663

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
2 February 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Pueblo Sitrep No. 29
(As of 5:00 PM EST)

1. North Korea today broadcast an alleged confession by Lt. Stephen Robert Harris, "first officer" of the Pueblo, admitting that he was a spy. The voice describing itself as Harris said he was a research officer on the Pueblo and had been engaged in collecting military intelligence from North Korea and the Soviet Far East under orders from the National Security Council and the U.S. Command in Japan.

2. Harris allegedly said "I deeply repent and sincerely apologize" to North Korea "for my criminal act" and promised that if Pyongyang "forgives generously and allows me to return home . . . I will never again associate myself with such activities." The speaker further promised he would "never commit again such an atrocious crime against other countries" when he returned home but would "oppose the administration policy of aggression against other countries."

3. A Lt. Harris was the officer in charge of the security group detachment on the Pueblo.

4. Grudging approval marks initial South Korean reaction to the announcement that the US is willing to discuss the Pueblo incident at Panmunjon. A Foreign Ministry official was quoted in the press as saying "it is more favorable to have the seizure discussed at Panmunjon than at the UN or in a third country; however, it is doubtful that productive

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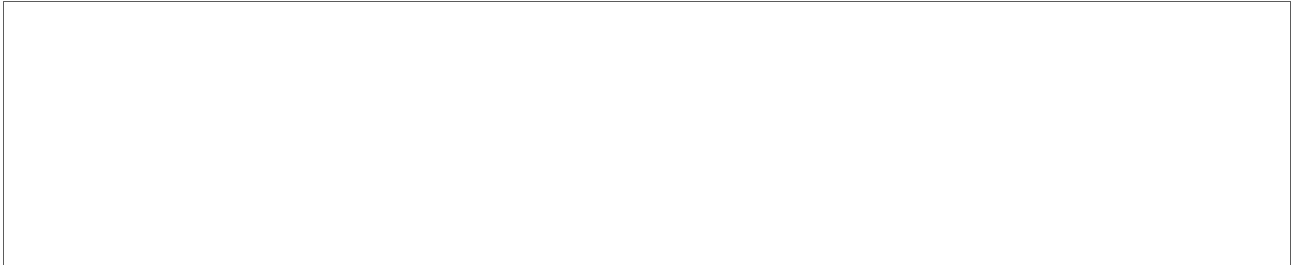
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results will emerge." The independent newspaper Chungang Ilbo echoed this line--saying that military action is the solution, the Military Armistice Commission has been historically ineffective, and the abortive attack on President Pak's residence is being played down as a result of this decision.



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7. Soviet ships continue to shadow US naval units in the Sea of Japan. At latest report a Kotlin-class destroyer, DD 424, a UDA-class oiler, Vishera, a Kildin-class guided missile destroyer, DDGS 983, a Riga-class destroyer escort, DE 803, the intelligence collector Gidrolog, and a new intelligence collector Protraktor, which appeared for the first time on 2 February, were in Task Group 70.6's surveillance area.



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