

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]
~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

(b)(3)

SC No. 07392/68

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
25 January 1968

*Way out of
Siberia*

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

PUEBLO SITREP No. 7
(As of 1700 EST)

1. Soviet naval activity is picking up in the Sea of Japan and East China Sea.

[redacted]

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3. The number of ships observing the Enterprise has increased. A Kildin-class guided missile destroyer which left Vladivostok on 24 January has joined the Soviet intelligence trawler in trailing the carrier. The Kildin reportedly has a missile (100 nm SS-N-1 anti-ship weapon) on its launcher.

4. A Riga-class DE and an oiler which have been operating on the normal Soviet station in the Tsushima Strait have steamed north and joined other Soviet units shadowing the Enterprise.

[redacted]

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6. The first extended Soviet comment on the Pueblo incident does no more than cast doubt on the US version of the affair, citing Commander Bucher's alleged "confession" and selected Western press comments. The TASS statement issued today attempts to link the "provocative" US action in the Sea of Japan

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to other recent developments such as those in Cambodia to show a pattern of US recklessness. This early reaction from Moscow is entirely propagandistic and offers no clues as to how the Soviet government views the situation privately.

7. Further analysis of North Korean broadcasts of Commander Bucher's alleged confession in Korean, Japanese, English, Mandarin and Russian reveals that no specific statement was made that the voice reading the "confession" was actually that of Bucher, although Pyongyang strongly made such an implication. In all broadcasts the English-speaking voice appeared to be the same.

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