

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]~~No Foreign Dissem~~

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SC No. 01902/68

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 Directorate of Intelligence
 27 January 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Pueblo Sitrep No. 11
(As of 0700 EST)

1. Pyongyang's position on the Pueblo incident remains adamant. Reacting to yesterday's deliberations in the UN Security Council, Pyongyang radio voiced the government's strong opposition to any debate of the US appeal. The radio added that North Korea will ignore any Security Council resolution "rigged up to cover US imperialists' aggression"-- a statement in line with Pyongyang's policy during the past 21 years of refusing to recognize UN competence in dealing with Korean matters.

[redacted]

[redacted] the North Koreans plan to release all the Pueblo's crew unharmed on 29 or 30 January and then "scuttle the ship." The North Koreans reportedly saw this course as a face-saving way out of the situation. [redacted]

[redacted]

3. The US delegation at the UN has drafted a Security Council resolution inviting the permanent South Korean observer at the UN to participate without vote in current discussions and inviting the North Koreans to send either a representative or information. There reportedly is strong concern in South Korea that the Pueblo incident is receiving inordinate world press attention. The South Koreans hope that North Korean aggressive activities within South Korea receive their due share of international notice.

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4. UN delegates generally feel that the Soviet speech in the Security Council on 26 January was lackluster and paid scant attention to the Pueblo incident. [redacted]

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5. The US continues to reinforce its military forces in the Korean area. A group of 26 B-52s with their tankers will arrive at their forward base on Guam by 6 February and 144 fighters will deploy to Korea from South Vietnam and the US arriving about 2-3 February. The nuclear carrier Enterprise and its task group 70.6 continue to operate in an area approximately 100 miles off the southeast Korean coast. The anti-submarine carrier Yorktown and her six escorting destroyers comprise task group 70.0 and are currently located in the western Pacific en route to join the Enterprise on 30 January. The USS Banner--sister ship of the Pueblo--will join the Enterprise task group on 30 January.

6. Soviet Naval surveillance of the US task force in the Sea of Japan continued with both the surface-to-surface missile carrying destroyer and intelligence collector Gidrolog nine miles or more from the task force at 2200 (EST) last night. [redacted]

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