

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

~~No Foreign Dissem~~

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SC No. 01892/68

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
23 January 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

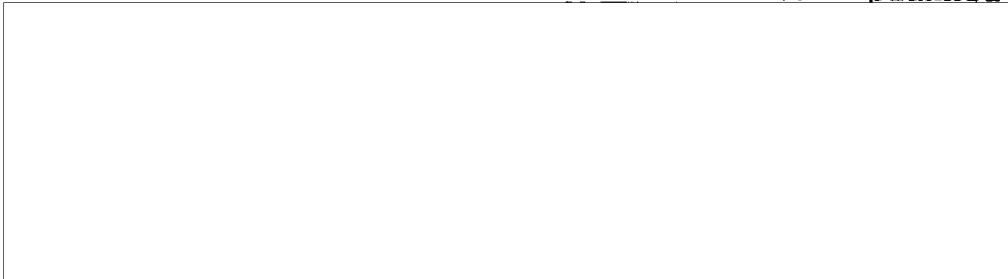
PUEBLO SITREP

1. Pyongyang's public stance suggests the North Koreans intend to hold the Pueblo crew for a considerable period of time and attempt to exploit the incident for propaganda purposes.

2. Pyongyang has not yet made its intentions clear regarding the disposition of the captured personnel. The North Korean radio has portrayed the alleged intrusion of a US "spy boat" as a "grave provocative act" in retaliation for last Sunday's "surprise attack on the enemy" in the South Korean capital of Seoul.

3. In the most recent previous incident involving the capture of US military personnel, two helicopter pilots shot down in North Korea in May 1963 near the Demilitarized Zone were held in custody for a year. During this time Pyongyang failed to respond to a variety of non-military pressures and attempted to pin charges of "espionage" and "criminal intent" on the fliers.

4. The seizure of the Pueblo was well planned



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5. South Korean and US forces are continuing a massive search for the remaining members of the North Korean guerrilla team that fought its way into Seoul over the weekend. North of the capital there have been minor firing incidents involving US troops manning the southern boundary of the Demilitarized Zone. It is not clear whether these involved the retreating agent team or a new group of infiltrators.

6. A US Task Force led by the nuclear powered aircraft carrier Enterprise is steaming to a rendezvous point south of the Demilitarized Zone. This Task Force is authorized only to take aggressive protective measures in the event of armed attack.



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