Approved for Release: 2021/03/25 C00928319

Top Secret

(b)(3)



Directorate **of** intelligen**ce**

WEEKLY REVIEW

MENTAL RECORD

Top Secret

509

(b)(3)

16 February 1968 50 No. 00757/68

103 **7**1 510 60 11

Approved for Release: 2021/03/25 C00928319

TOP SECRET

(b)(3)

CONTENTS

(Information as of noon EST, 15 February 1968)

Far East

THE WEEK IN PERSPECTIVE		
		NR Recor
		Necoi
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	5
THE PUEBLO CASE HANGS FIRE No progress is visible	in the Pueblo case although	
bilateral talks continu	in the <u>Pueblo</u> case although ue at Panmunjom.) (k
::-		
		NR
		Recor

TOP SECRET

Page i WEEKLY REVIEW 16 Feb 68

(b)(3)

Approved for Release: 2021/03/25 C00928319

TOP SECRET

(b)(3)

NR Record

THE PUEBLO CASE HANGS FIRE

No progress is visible in the <u>Pueblo</u> case although bilateral talks at Panmunjom are continuing.

During the celebration of the "Korean People's Army" 20th

Anniversary in Pyongyang, Premier Kim Il-song accused the <u>Pueblo</u> of a "gangster-like, piratic act" which proved that "US maneuverings" for a new Korean war had reached a "grave stage." He insisted that the North Koreans do

TOP SECRET

Page 5

WEEKLY REVIEW

16 Feb 68

(b)(3)

TOP SECRET

not want war, but warned the US would get "only corpses" if it tried to solve the case through "threat and blackmail."

Pyongyang publicized a second, more detailed "confession" by Pueblo captain Bucher and published four photos of alleged US documents which place the vessel in North Korean territorial waters on six occasions.

Despite Pyongyang's charges of an armed incursion this week, the level of incidents along the DMZ has been low. Pressure for some action against the north remains high in Seoul, however.

South Korean officials retreated somewhat from last week's charges of US "appeasement" of North Korea. In talks with Cyrus Vance, President Pak seemed to be out to use South Korean dissatisfaction over US handling of the Pueblo incident to extract the maximum military aid and political concessions from Washington. Seoul has been dissatisfied with the rate of modernization of South Korean forces and South Korea's lack of voice in UN Command decisions. Initial South

Korean reactions to the Vance mission reveal some dissatisfaction with the outcome and suggest that Seoul will continue to seek additional US commitments.

Soviet Party Secretary Ponomarev visited Pyongyang on 9 and 10 February following his visit to Tokyo where he and politburo member Suslov had held talks with the Japanese Communist Party. Ponomarev probably used the occasion to brief the North Koreans on the upcoming international Communist consultative meeting in Budapest and to test the present mood in Pyongyang in light of the Pueblo affair. North Korea has long opposed such an international Communist meeting and does not plan to send a delegation. Ponomarev's visit, though offering a gesture of Moscow's "fraternal" solidarity with North Korea, provided no indication that the Soviets had departed from their policy of minimal involvement in the Pueblo issue.

Fifteen Soviet ships, five of them armed with missiles are deployed off Korea. Although most have remained in the Sea of Japan north of the 38th parallel, a few have moved south of the line and are trailing the American task force.

North Korean military activity has returned nearly to levels and patterns of activity seen in previous years.

_(b)(1)

(b)(3)

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

TOP SECRET

Page 6

WEEKLY REVIEW

16 Feb 68

(b)(3)