

~~Secret~~



(b)(3)



DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# WEEKLY SUMMARY

70

~~Secret~~

42

18 April 1969  
No. 0366/69

~~SECRET~~

The **WEEKLY SUMMARY**, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents pages.

#### WARNING

The **WEEKLY SUMMARY** contains classified information affecting the national security of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, sections 793 and 794, of the US Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

#### DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

The **WEEKLY SUMMARY** MUST NOT BE RELEASED TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS and must be handled within the framework of specific dissemination control provisions of DCID 1/7.

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

C O N T E N T S

(Information as of noon EST, 17 April 1969)

Far East

Page

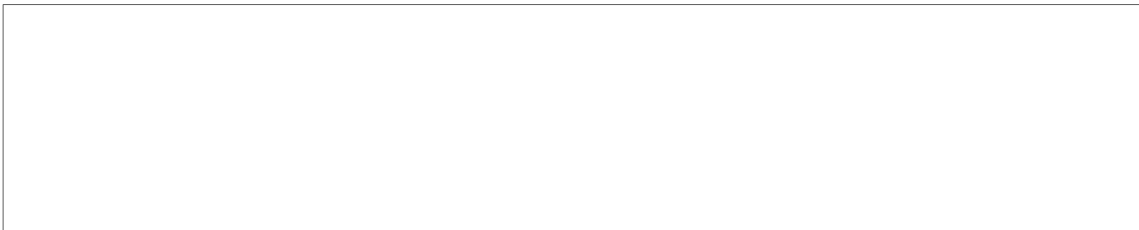


NR Record

HARD-LINE NORTH KOREANS REVIVE TENSION WITH US

7

North Korea's shutdown of a US reconnaissance aircraft over the Sea of Japan has all the earmarks of a deliberate action designed to revive an atmosphere of high tension with the US.



NR Record

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

FAR EAST

The North Korean shutdown of a US reconnaissance aircraft over international waters appears to have been a deliberate action designed to revive a high level of tension with the US. In light of its experience in the Pueblo affair, the Kim Il-song regime apparently saw a relatively low-risk opportunity to score another propaganda triumph that would offset the failure of its pressure campaign against South Korea. North Korea's immediate call for a Military Armistice Commission meeting probably was intended to forestall US retaliation and to provide a propaganda forum for further charges of US aggression.

South Korean reaction to the incident has indicated an immediate concern over US resolve to deal firmly with North Korean attacks. In Japan, on the other hand, concern has been expressed that Japan might become embroiled in a Korean conflict.

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

In South Vietnam, main force Communist units continue to refit in sanctuary and border base areas. The enemy has, however, sought to cover his general disengagement by launching a few heavy attacks against outlying targets. In Paris, meanwhile, the Vietnamese Communists are sending out mixed signals, probably in an effort to suggest some flexibility on their part without actually abandoning any of their maximum positions.

After two weeks, the Chinese Communists have announced only that their ninth party congress has "unanimously" approved the new party constitution and the political report given by Mao's heir apparent, Lin Piao. Peking has announced that discussions leading up to the election of a new central committee did not begin until 15 April, suggesting that differences between the various party factions still have not been settled.

An increasing willingness on the part of local Cambodian officials to act on long-standing instructions to limit Communist activities along the border with Vietnam reflects Phnom Penh's growing preoccupation with the problem of the Communist presence. The change in the Cambodian attitude is largely a result of heavier fighting along the border and increasing Communist encroachments in the southern half of Cambodia over the past several years.

(b)(3)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

## HARD-LINE NORTH KOREANS REVIVE TENSION WITH US

North Korea's shutdown of a US reconnaissance aircraft over the Sea of Japan has all the earmarks of a deliberate action designed to revive an atmosphere of high tension with the US.

In light of the Pueblo experience, North Korean Premier Kim Il-song probably saw the attack on April 15 as a relatively low-risk opportunity to intensify the propaganda campaign against "US aggressive designs" and to undermine the credibility of US strength in the area. The Pyongyang leadership probably believes that a considerable body of world opinion is likely to be receptive to their claim that the aircraft had violated North Korean airspace.

The attack also enables the hard-line North Korean leadership to focus domestic attention on this challenge to US power rather than on Pyongyang's frustrating inability to launch a so-called "people's war" in the South, or to keep pace with the economic progress of South Korea. Pyongyang may also have been looking for a riposte to the joint US - South Korean "Focus Retina" military exercise last month. Earlier they had reacted by initiating harassments in the Demilitarized Zone and by adopting a more belligerent posture in blocking routine boundary-marker replacement actions by the United Nations Command.

Incidents such as the shutdown permit Kim Il-song effectively to upstage Moscow and Peking as well as to score points for his personal and nationalist self-assertion. He has created an effective contrast between North Korean boldness and the caution of Peking and Moscow in confronting the power of the US. North Korea has long insisted on the importance of the smaller countries in the Communist movement, to the point of strained relations with Moscow and Peking. A major theme of North Korean propaganda, particularly since the Pueblo incident, is that a determined small nation can defeat a "mighty imperialist."

Within hours of the shutdown of the US aircraft, Pyongyang called for a meeting of the Military Armistice Commission on 18 April. The apparent aim is to portray North Korea as the aggrieved party, reduce the likelihood of US retaliation, and use the proposed meeting as a propaganda forum.

In April 1965, North Korean fighter aircraft attacked--but failed to shoot down--an RB-47 aircraft about 50 nautical miles off North Korea over the Sea of Japan. In the past, numerous US reconnaissance missions have been flown in this same general area, but there has been little North Korea reaction. [REDACTED]

(b)(3)  
(b)(3)~~SECRET~~