



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

# Central Intelligence Bulletin

Top Secret

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17 April 1969

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| Korea: South Korean spokesmen have called for strong US retaliation for the shootdown; North Korean military activity is cautious and defensive. (Page 2) | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
|   | NR Record                             |
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Korea: The South Korean Government has thus far not taken an official position on the shootdown of a US reconnaissance aircraft by North Korea. Spokesmen for the government and opposition parties in South Korea, however, have called for the US to take strong retaliatory action to prevent more such incidents.

The incident is cited by some South Korean commentators as further evidence of South Korea's need for additional US military assistance. Underlying the South Korean reaction is concern over the US resolve to deal firmly with North Korean attacks.

Japanese Government spokesmen, citing lack of detailed information, have refrained from denouncing North Korea. Yesterday, Foreign Minister Aichi was put on the defensive in the Diet by the opposition with a heavy barrage of questions regarding the implications of the incident for Japan. The Socialists and Communists, stressing that the plane was from a US base in Japan, are exploiting popular fears that Japan might become embroiled in a Korean conflict. This line promotes the leftist campaign to scrap the US-Japan security treaty.

The Japanese press has developed the theme that an increase in tension in the area might dim prospects for an early return of Okinawa to Japanese administration.

\* \* \* \*

The Soviet Union, whose ships and aircraft have joined in the search for survivors, has used both US and North Korean press agency reports of the incident, but Soviet press commentary has supported the North Koreans.

Because Soviet ships were closest to the crash site, Moscow probably believed it had to help as long as there was the possibility of survivors. The Soviets may also believe their cooperation may help deter US retaliation, and relations with the US

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| will thus not be endangered. Moscow may not if Pyongyang sees the cooperative search oper in which the Soviets have recovered debris, a tacit rebuke for its action against the US ai | ations,<br>s a   |
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| North Korean military activity since the  |                  |
| down has been cautious and defensive.   | (b)(1)<br>(b)(3) |
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| UN Command forces along the Demilitarize  | d Zone           |
| have been placed on full alert. A North Kore claim that US forces fired into the Demilitar  | an               |
| Zone on 15 April is unsubstantiated.  | (h               |
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