



*The President's Daily Brief*

*22 April 1969*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

23 April 1969

LATE NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF OF  
22 APRIL 1969

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KOREA

The North Korean government today issued a statement on the EC-121 incident. The complete text is not yet in, but the summary would indicate an accusation that the US infiltration into North Korean air space by a "large-size reconnaissance plane" was raising a "new war clamor." The statement adds,

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"Our counterattack and self-defense measures...are a legitimate exercise of sovereignty...which fully conforms to international law." (FBIS 17, 19, 20, 21, etc.)

Preliminary reports indicate that a North Korean guard post this morning fired an estimated 30 rounds of recoilless rifle fire and 300 rounds of machine gun fire across the DMZ at a position manned by troops of the South Korean 7th Division who returned the fire. The fight lasted 35 minutes and no casualties were reported.

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KOREA

Peking yesterday broke its week-old silence over the shootdown in an official news release attacking Moscow's "collusion" with the US after the incident. While denouncing the Soviets' assistance and cooperation during the past week as "active service provided to US imperialism," the article cited a "news report" source stating that the US plane "intruded" into North Korean airspace. The dispatch made no mention of who shot down the plane and managed to avoid any direct expression of support for North Korea's action.

Peking's statement contrasts with its announcement last year concerning the seizure of the Pueblo which promised China's "firm support" for Pyongyang's "just stand."

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