



The President's Daily Brief

17 April 1969

19

~~Top Secret~~ (b)(3)



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NR Record

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

KOREA

At today's Military Armistice Commission meeting, the statement of the senior North Korean representative dealt only with charges of DMZ violations and made no mention of the aircraft shootdown. When the UN Command member, General Knapp, made his protest, the North Korean asked to what unit the plane had been attached. After this question was reiterated, General Knapp walked out. [REDACTED]

(b)(3)

* * *

The Soviet destroyer Vdokhnovennyy, rendezvousing with the USS Tucker, this morning turned over a number of items of clothing and equipment recovered from the downed aircraft. [REDACTED]

(b)(3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

*

*

*



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

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

KOREA

The South Korean Government seems anxious not to get too far ahead of the US position on the shutdown. In a relatively moderate statement the government today condemned the "outrageous, illegal, barbaric" North Korean action and called on the "US and free world...to take prompt and effective countermeasures to prevent once and for all the Northern puppets from playing with fire and provoking war." The statement avoided any demand for immediate military retaliation and only asserted that North Korea's leaders "should receive due punishment for the crime they committed." In contrast to official caution, the press is continuing to call for immediate retaliation.

Japanese Prime Minister Sato publicly censured Pyongyang in the Diet today. He said that the North Korean action should be "internationally condemned." Sato, however, expressed a hope that the US would take a cautious attitude and that the incident would not develop into any further conflict. This clear preference for US restraint, which underlies popular attitudes toward the incident, has also been reflected in commentary by Foreign Minister Aichi, Japanese defense officials, and in the news media. Sato also implied a concern that US retaliation might affect the progress of negotiations on the return of Okinawa to Japanese administration.

A
Z
Z
E
X

~~Top Secret~~