

The President's Daily Brief

23 April 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

24 April 1969

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

NR Record

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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

NR Record

KOREA

Examination of the full text of Pyongyang's first official statement on the EC-121 incident shows a generally cautious and defensive stance. The North Koreans clearly have been playing for time in which to assess US intentions. The defensive tone of the statement suggests that North Korean leaders are well aware of their weak international position and are fully conscious of the hazards in any further military provocations on their part.

The North Koreans make an attempt to link the EC-121 with the Pueblo affair, but the weakness of their case is evident in their failure to cite a precise location for the

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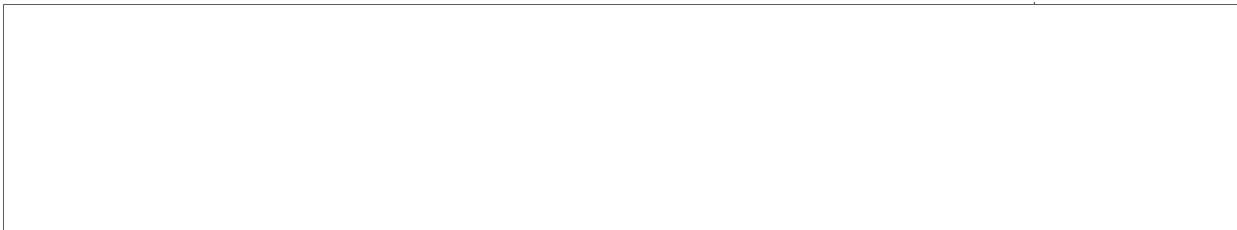
alleged intrusion of the US plane. The omission of details contrasts with the elaborate attempt to "document" the Pueblo's violation of North Korean waters.

In an obvious attempt to play on foreign uneasiness regarding US intentions, the statement claims there is no "guarantee" that US flights "will not intrude again." The statement further seeks to cast doubt on US intentions by warning that the US will exploit any North Korean defensive reaction as a pretext to "commit full-scale attack" which may lead to another "total war" in Korea.

The general posture and deployment of North Korean forces and air defense units is consistent with a decision to lie low for the time being.

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Seoul appears to be trying to keep in step with the US.



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