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Pueblo File

THE ISHTAR DESIGNATOR APPLIES TO ALL PORTIONS OF THIS REPORT.

ADDITIONAL SIGINT REFLECTIONS MF THE USS PUEBLO OFF THE EAST COAST OF KOREA ON 23 JANUARY

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THE FOLLOWING ~~REPORT IS BASED~~ ON RAW DATA RECENTLY MADE AVAILABLE:

NORTH KOREAN NAVY (NKN) COMMUNICATIONS REVEAL THAT THE "UNIDENTIFIED" VESSEL PREVIOUSLY REPORTED OFF THE EAST COAST OF NORTH KOREA ON 22 JANUARY WAS OPERATING IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA BETWEEN APPROXIMATELY 0100 AND 0200Z ON 23 JANUARY AND WAS IDENTIFIED DURING THAT TIME AS AN "ENEMY SHIP." SHE WAS IDENTIFIED FURTHER AS "TARGET FOUR," A DESIGNATION USED IN REFERRING TO THE USS PUEBLO DURING THE LATTER ENCOUNTER BETWEEN THE PUEBLO AND NORTH KOREAN NAVY VESSELS AND THE SUBSEQUENT SEIZURE.

KUKCHI7BONG RADAR STATION, DIRECTING THE ACTIVITY OF AT LEAST TWO NKN VESSELS DURING THIS TIME PERIOD, ISSUED A SERIES OF INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO THE MOVEMENTS OF NORTH KOREAN FISHING VESSELS. FISHING VESSELS ARE ROUTINELY RESTRICTED IN THEIR AREA OF OPERATIONS BY NKN VESSELS, PROBABLY IN ORDER TO AVOID INTRUSION INTO THE AREA SOUTH OF THE NORTHERN LIMIT LINE (NLL). THE ACTIVITY ON 23 JANUARY WAS SIMILAR.

AT 0118Z KUKCHI7BONG NOTIFIED SUBCHASER (YC) 35 (THE NKN VESSEL THAT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY THE PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANT IN THE PUSBLO SEIZURE) OF THE POSITION OF "TARGET FOUR" AS 09-14N 128-06E, (14 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE NEAREST LAND, THE ISLAND OF RAN7DO). THE RADAR STATION SHORTLY THEREAFTER AGAIN INSTRUCTED THE NKN VESSELS TO FORCE THE FISHING VESSELS FROM THE AREA IN WHICH THEY WERE OPERATING "TO THE TOP OF "45." 45 APPARENTLY REPRESENTS AN ARBITRARY LINE 45 DEGREES FROM SUWO'N7DAN (38-41N 128-21E). NORTH KOREAN FISHING VESSELS ARE APPARENTLY RESTRICTED FROM OPERATING BELOW THIS LINE.

KUKCHI7BONG THEN QUERIED AN UNIDENTIFIED TORPEDO BOAT IF THERE WAS AN "ENEMY" IN THE AREA. SC735 ASKED KUKCHI7BONG IF THE "TARGET" WAS VISIBLE (PROBABLY ON THE RADAR SCOPE) AND WAS AGAIN GIVEN THE POSITION JUST REPORTED FOR THE "TARGET".

AT 0130Z SC735 REQUESTED KUKCHI7BONG NOTIFY THE "SUPERIORS" THAT SHE WAS GOING FIRST "TOWARD WHERE TARGET FOUR IS." AT 0136Z KUKKHI7BONG INFORMED SC735 THAT THE TARGET HAD DISAPPEARED AT 0130Z AT POSITION 09-14N 128-07E (14.5 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE NEAREST LAND, RAN7DO). AT 0138Z, KUKCHI-BONG IDENTIFIED THE TARGET AS AN "ENEMY" VESSEL. FOLLOWING THESE EXCHANGES, KUKCHI-BONG ATTEMPTED IN VAIN FOR SEVERAL MINUTES TO OBTAIN POSITION REPORTS FROM SC735 AND THE OTHER NKN VESSELS. A REFERENCE WAS MADE BY KUKCHI BON TO AN UNIDENTIFIED ELEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE INDICATING THAT THAT UNIDENTIFIED

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ELEMENT MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE OPERATIONS.
COMMENTS: THE ACTIVITY REPORTED ABOVE REPRESENTS NKN VESSEL MOVEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS RELATED TO THE PRESENCE OF THE USS PUEBLO OFF THE WO'NSAN AREA EARLY ON 23 JANUARY AND COVERS THE TIME PERIOD BETWEEN THAT ACTIVITY REPORTED IN THE BASIC REPORT WHICH THIS SUPPLEMENTS AND 4/0/KCJ/R 13-68, THE RECORD OF NKN VOICE COMMUNICATIONS PRECEDING AND DURING THE ACTUAL SEIZURE (0223Z 7 0713Z ON 23 JANUARY). THE VESSEL TRACKED AND IDENTIFIED ON 22 JANUARY AS "TARGET NR. 9" WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REIDENTIFIED AS "TARGET NR. 4". THIS SAME TRACK WAS AGAIN REFLECTED EARLY ON 23 JANUARY AS THE SAME "TARGET NR. 4" AND IDENTIFIED AS SUCH AT 0439Z PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL SEIZURE. THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN THIS ACTIVITY BY AN ELEMENT OF THE NORTH KOREAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (MND) MAY BE CONSISTENT WITH REFERENCES TO "THE COMRADE. . .FROM THE TOP" IN LATER NKN VOICE COMMUNICATIONS JUST PRIOR TO THE SEIZURE. IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR A COMMUNICATIONS ENTITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE MND TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER NKN VESSELS THROUGH THE VESSELS' CONTROL AUTHORITY (IN THIS CASE, KUKCHI-BONG).

ALL AVAILABLE SIGINT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PUEBLO INCIDENT CONFIRMS THE POSITION OF THE USS PUEBLO DURING THE TIMES OF THESE SIGINT REFLECTIONS AS BEING IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS.

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