SECRET

III (Jan 68)

SILENCE

QUESTION:

Why was the Pueblo operating under radio silence?

ANSWER:

1. The Pueblo was operating under radio silence in conformance with operating instructions issued by the U.S. Navy for patrols of this type. One of the reasons for imposing radio silence is to escape detection by North Korean and Russian intercept and radio direction finding facilities. If the North Koreans or the Russians became aware that an intelligence collection ship was operating in proximity to their coast, they could shut down all or many important SIGINT targets, thus creating substantial changes in the electronic target environment and negating the effectiveness of the mission.

2. The instructions issued by the Navy prescribed conditions under which radio silence could be broken; for example, when the presence of the Pueblo was discovered by Soviet Naval units.

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(III) (Jan 68)

~~SECRET~~

PROVOKE

QUESTION:

Why do we undertake provocative reconnaissance missions such as the one in which the Pueblo was engaged?

(b)(1)
(b)(3)-50 USC 403
(b)(3)-18 USC 798
(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

ANSWER:

1. The intelligence collection mission on which the Pueblo was embarked was not designed to be provocative. In fact just the opposite was true - it was hoped that the Pueblo could conduct its operations without detection so as to obtain collection on the normal electronic environment. The U.S. Navy

3. Prior to the Pueblo incident, it had not been thought necessary to provide armed escort type of support for intelligence collection vessels operating in international waters. Since the Pueblo, armed escorts have been provided when the JCS and/or the Navy deems the situation sufficiently hazardous, even though the intelligence collector is in international waters.