P.L. 86-36

OO [redacted]

DE [redacted] 42B Ø2/2331Z AUG

O Ø21443Z (CENSER)

FM CTU 72.1.2

TO AIG 181

INFO CNO

(MANY OTHERS)

~~S E C R E T NOFORN~~ (CENSER)

25X4

JULY-AUGUST DESOTO Ø212ØØZ OPSUM

A. CINCPACFLT Ø211Ø4Z NOTAL

B. COMSEVENTHFLT Ø21255Z NOTAL. TAB 23

1. CTG 72.1 ORIG THIS MSG. MILITARY SIGHTINGS CONTAINED MY SITSUM 3.

2. FOR ADDEES THIS MSG NOT INCLUDED AS ADDEES MY ACTION REPORTS: MADDOX ATTACKED BY 3 DRV P-4 CRAFT AT TIME Ø2Ø75ØZ AT POSITION 19-47N 1Ø6-31.1E. EVAL THESE CRAFT AS SAME S P-4 REPORTED SITSUM 3. ANTICIPATING ATTACK MADDOX HAD OPENED POINT DELTA 15 MILES TO SEAWARD PRIOR TO PURSUIT BY P-FOURS. MADDOX SPEED [redacted] P-4 SPEED 5Ø KNOTS AT Ø2Ø8Ø8, RANGE 9ØØØ YARDS, MADDOX FIRED 3 WARNING SHOTS WHICH WERE UNHEEDED. MADDOX THEN TOOK P-FOURS UNDER FIRE. 3 TORPEDO FIRINGS OBSERVED. 2 PASSED DOWN STARBOARD SIDE AFTER 9Ø DEGREE PORT TURN. OTHER TORPEDO NOT OBSERVED TO RUN. 3Ø CAL MACHINE GUN FIRE ALSO EXPERIENCED. NO MATERIAL OR PERSONNEL CASUALITIES TO MADDOX. ALL 3 P-FOURS HIT BY GUNFIRE. 1 APPEARED HIT AND BURNING. REMAINING 2 RETIRED TO WEST. MADDOX RETIRED TO NE AND DIRECTED F8A AIRCRAFT

FROM TICO ONTO P-FOURS. MADDOX PRESENTLY IN COMPANY WITH TURNER JOY PROCEEDING 17-3ØN 1Ø8-ØØE FOR UNREP FROM ASHTABULA. COMPL UNREP INTEND PROCEED IAW REFS A AND B. 3 CHICOM COMM UNSAT TO DATE. UNODIR AM GUARDING CKT D3Ø.1F (TG77.5 CID) WHICH HAS BEEN SAT FROR COMM WITH TG 77. UNITS. DURATT UNSAT TO DATE. ALL RECENT TRAFFIC PASSED VIA SHIP/SHORE.

4. MATERIAL DEFICIENCIES: MADDOX AN/SPS4Ø INOP. EXPECT SAT BY MORNINGS TURNER JOY AN/SPG53 RADAR INOP ETR INDEF.

5. IT IS APPARENT THAT DRV HAS CUT DOWN THE GUANTLET AND NOE CONSIDERS ITSELF AT WAR WITH US. IT IS FELT THAT THEY WILL ATTACK US FORCES ON SIGHT WITH NO REGARD FOR COST. U.S. SHIPS IN THE GULF OF TONKIN CAN NO LONGER ASSUME THAT THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED NEUTUALS EXERCISING THE RIGHT OF FREE TRANSIT. THEY WILL BE TREATED AS BELLIGERENTS FROM FIRST DETECTION AND MUST CONSIDER THEMSELVES AS SUCH. DRV PTS HAVE ADVANTAGE ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT OF BEING ABLE TO HIDE IN JUNK CONCENTRATIONS ALL ACROSS THE GULF OF TONKIN. THIS WOULD ALLOW ATTACK FROM SHORT RANGE WITH LITTLE OR NR EARLY WARNING. PRESENT US-GUNNERY SUIT NOT TOO WELL FITTED FOR ANTI-PT EVEN IN DAYLIGHT. SHORT HULL DD SUCH AS MADDOX TOO SHORT LEGGED FOR LONG PATROL WHERE HIGH SPEEDS ARE REQUIRED AS IN PT EVASION. CONSIDER RESUMPTION OF PATROL CAN ONLY BE SAFELY UNDERTAKEN BY DD, CL/CA TEAM AND WITH CONTINUOUS AIR COVER.

~~GP-3~~