Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 02-15-2006 pursuant to E.O. 12958, as amended

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SECRET

NOFORN

P.L. 86-36

ZCZCZDA067 *****

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DE

1964 AUG 5 AM 4 00

ZFH-1 ZYH
Z 042158Z
TO AIG 181
INFO RUMFZK/J8RM/CTG 77.5
RUMFZN/H3WX/CTG 77.6
RUEPCR/DIRSNA
RUMGCR/NENB/USS TURNER JOY
RUMGCR/NHHK/USS MADDOX
RUMSMA/COMUSMACV
BT
~~S E C R E T NOFORN~~
ATTACK ON DESOTO FINAL SITREP ~~(S)~~
1. CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:
AT 041215Z RCVD INFO THAT DRV INTENDED ATTACK. MY POSITION 19-10.7N 107-99E. PROCEED WTTUUTH (AS RECVD) AT THIRTY KNOTS TO BUY TIME FOR AIR COVER. REQUESTED COVER FROM CTG 77.5. AT 1S1 ?)S (AS RECVD) DETECTED THREE TO FIVE CONTACTS 40-2 MILES TO EAST AND IN INTENDED SIGHT STEAM AREA. THESE CONTACTS APPEARED TO ATTEMPT PURSUIT BUT BROKE OFF AFTER ABOUT TEN MINUTES AT RANGE 40 MILES. REQUESTED AIR SUPPORT FROM CTG 77.5 AT041325Z. AT 041408Z THREE CONTACTS

PAGE 2 RUMFCR ~~S E C R E T NOFORN~~
DETECTED 090, 14 MILES ON COURSE 130, SPEED 30 KTS. THIS CONTACT HELD BY BOTH SHIPS. AT 1419Z CONTACTS CHANGED TO 155, 40 KTS. FIRST CAP OVER HEAD 1410Z. AT 1439Z DESOTO UNITS COMMENCED FIRE ON LEAD CONTACT WHICH HAD TURNED TO INTERCEPT. PROBABLE TORPEDO DETECTED ON SONAR. FROM THIS TIME UNTIL 1635Z DESOTO UNITS OPERATED INDEPENDENTLY ALKKVFQTPOW (AS RECVD) EVASION AND FIRING AT TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY. ACTION CEASED AT APPROX 1635Z WITH NO FURTHER DETECTIONS. DESOTO UNITS PROCEEDED TO VIC 17-30N, 18-00E TO AWAIT DECISION ON POSSIBLE LOGISTICS ARRANGEMENTS. AT 2045Z SET COURSE FOR FIVE AUGUST PATROL AREA IAW INSTRUCTIONS FROM COMSEVENTHFLT.
2. AIR COVER FROM TICO WAS IN AREA CONTINUOSLY FROM 1410Z UNTIL STEERED AT 1750Z. AIR COVER FROM CONSTELLATION STATION FROM AFSINR 1615Z UNTIL STEER AT 1750Z. DUE TO WEATHER, LIMITED VISIBELITY AND LACK OF EFFECTIVE ILLUMINATION, AIR SUPPORT NOT SUCESSFUL IN LOCATING TARGETS.
. CO TURNER JOY CLAIMS SINKING ONE CRAFT AND DAMAGE TO ANOTHER WITH GUNFIRE. DAMAGED BOAT RETURNED CONFIRE-NO HITS. CO TURNER JOY AND OTHER PERSONNEL OBSERVED BURSTS AND BLACK SMOKE FROM HITS ON THIS BOAT. THIS BOAT ILLUMINATED TURNER JOY AND HIS RETURN FIRE WAS OBSERVED AND HEARD BY TJ PERSONNEL. MADDOX SCORED NO KNOWN HITS AND NEVER POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED A BOAT AS SUCH.
4. THE FIRST BOAT TO CLOSE MADDOX (1459Z) PROBABLY FIRED TORPEDO. AT MADDOX WHICH WAS HEARD BUT NOT SEEN. ALL SUBSEQUENT MADDOX TORPEDO REPORTS ARE DOUBTFUL IN THAT IT IS SUSPECTED THE SONARMAN WAS HEARING THE SHIPS OWN PROPELLER BEAT REFLECTED OFF RUDDERS DURING COURSE CHANGES (WEAVING). TURNER JOY DETECTED 2 TORPEDO RUNS
(MORE TO FOLLOW)

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1964 AUG 5 AM 3 55

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P.L. 86-36

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DE
ZFH-2
Z 042158Z
TO AIG 151
INFO RUMFZK/JSRM/CTG 77.5
RUMFZN/HSWX/CTG 77.6
RUEPCR/DIRSNA
RUMGCR/NENB/USS TURNER JOY
RUMGCR/NHHK/USS MADDOX
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~~SECRET NOFORN~~
ON
HER ONE OF WHICH WAS SIGHTED VISUALLY PASSED DOWN PORT SIDE 3 TO 5 HUNDRED YARDS.
5. WEATHER WAS OVERCAST WITH LIMITED VISIBILITY. THERE WERE NO STARS OR MOON RESULTING IN ALMOST TOTAL DARKNESS THOUGHOUT ACTION. VISUAL SIGHTINGS OF CRAFT MADE BY EMBARKED SECGRU PERSONNEL ON DIMMED LIGHT EVAL AS POSSIBLE BINNACLE LIGHT. PASSING CLOSE ABOARD MADDOX.
6. AIR CONTACTS WERE REPORTED TO CTG 77.5 AT 1320Z. THESE CONTACTS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY EVAL AS LAND AND REPORTED AS SUCH TO CTG 77.5.
7. NO KNOWN DAMAGE OR PERSONNEL CASUALITIES TO EITHER SHIP. MADDOX URC-32 INOP DUE TO BROKEN TRANSMISSION LINE PROBABLY CAUSED BY VIBRATION. THIS CASUALTY PRECLUDES MY GUARDING NEC HF NETS. FOUR CASES OF HEAT PROSTRATION EXPERIENCED BY MADDOX ENGINEERING PERSONNEL.
8. SUSPECT POSITIONING OF DRY CRAFT PREVIOUS NIGHT. BELIEVE 5 OHSHEDE (AS RECVD) CRAFT WERE WAITING MY INTENDED NIGHT STEAM AREA WHICH HAS BEEN USED THE PREVIOUS NIGHT AND AT SUSPECTED POSITIONS TO SOUTHWARD TO THWART WITHDRAWL.
9. DURING PERIOD PATROL PT DELTA TO CHARLIE, SIGHTED VESSEL SIMILAR TO US YO (AS RECVD) DEPARTING HON ME. VESSEL RETURNED TO HON ME UPON SIGHTING PATROL. AT APPROX 1818Z. TURNER JOY SIGHTED TWO UNIDENT PROP AIRCRAFT FLYING LOW IN VIC HON MAT. AIR CRAFT DID NOT APPROACH DESOTO.
10. FUEL AT 0500Z: MADDOX 58 TURNER JOY 68. ROUNDS EXPENDED THIS ACTION: MADDOX 2-5 INCH 38 FRAG, 3-5 INCH AAC, 4-5 INCH STARSHELLS, 5-3 INCH FRAG, 4 DEPTH CHARGES. TURNER JOY 134-5 INCH 34 FRAG, 6-5 INCH AAC AND 28-3 INCH FRAG, ONE DEPTH CHARGES. PERCENT AMMO ON BOARD: MADDOX 85 TURNER JOY 95. DEPTH CHARGES USED AS ATTEMPED COUNTER TO BOATS FOLLOWING CLOSELY IN WAKES.
GP-3
BT

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ENCLOSURE (8)

SECRET

NOFORN

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ZZ [redacted]
DE [redacted] 05/0245Z
ZFH2
Z 041848Z
TO AIG 181
INFO CTG 77.5
CTG 77.6
COMUSMACV
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USS MADDOX
BT

P.L. 86-36

1964 AUG 5 AM 2 51

~~S E C R E T NOFORN~~
DESOTO ACTION SITREP (S)
A. COMSEVENTHFLT 041249Z
1. CERTAIN THAT ORIGINAL AMBUSH WAS BONAFIDE. DETAILS OF ACTION FOLLOWING PRESENT A CONFUSING PICTURE. HAVE INTERVIEWED WITNESSES WHO MADE POSITIVE VISUAL SIGHTINGS OF COCKPIT LIGHTS OR SIMILAR PASSING NEAR MADDOX. SEVERAL REPORTED TORPEDOES WERE PROBABLY BOATS THEMSELVES WHICH WERE OBSERVED TO MAKE SEVERAL CLOSE PASSES ON MADDOX. OWN SHIP SCREW NOISES ON RUDDERS MAY HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR SOME. AT PRESENT CANNOT

PAGE 2 RUMFCR B ~~S E C R E T NOFORN~~
EVEN ESTIMATE NUMBER OF BOATS INVOLVED. TURNER JOY REPORTS. 2 TORPEDOES PASSED NEAR HER.
2. MADDOX AND JOY NOT PREPARED TO COMPLY REF A UNTIL FUELED AND REARMED. REQUEST ADVISE
CP 3
BT

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ENCLOSURE (8)