~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~

Special Annex
USIB-M-345
26 August 1964

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 12-20-2005 pursuant to E.O. 12958, as amended

8. Article by Jack Anderson on "The Tonkin Gulf Snafu" in the 16 August 1964 Washington Post (USIB-M-344, Special Annex, item 8, 19 August 1964)

The Director, NSA distributed at the meeting a memorandum for USIB members on the subject (Serial: N1017) in response to the Board's request in the reference minute for an assessment of possible SIGINT damage.

Admiral Taylor raised a question regarding paragraph 5 of the NSA memorandum as to what warning was provided the U. S. S. Maddox in light of information which had been made available to him. General Carroll, referring to paragraph 6 of the NSA memorandum, questioned whether the source of the Anderson article was believed to be cognizant of SIGINT reporting.

General Blake stated that, while his memorandum does not reach any conclusion, he would as a USIB member vote against legal action on two grounds. The first was the escalation of the chance of SIGINT loss in that case. Second, there was considerable doubt as to whether there was a sufficient correlation with SIGINT reporting to make a good case. He said however that he would have a check made on the question raised by Admiral Taylor. As to the question raised by General Carroll, the NSA member explained why he believed paragraph 6 of his memorandum was valid.

In answer to a question by the Acting Chairman, the DIA member noted that the Board had agreed last week that any investigation of the source of this article would probably not be productive.

Based on this discussion, the USIB:

a. Noted the memorandum distributed by the Director, NSA.

b. Agreed that under the circumstances no further action, either legal or investigative, appeared warranted.