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CTG 72.1 Report

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INFO RUECW/JCS

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TO RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT

INFO RUMGZL/BVKG/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUMFZK/U4KT/CTF 77

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~~SECRET NOFORN~~ SECTION ONE OF TWO

NIGHT ENGAGEMENT 4 AUGUST 1964

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A. CNO 061642Z

B. CINCPACFLT 061837Z

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1. STATEMENTS OF MADDOX PERSONNEL.

A. STATEMENTS OF ALLASRE SGT AND PROUTY L/CPL USMC.

"ON THE NIGHT OF AUG 4 DURING THE ENGAGEMENT I WAS MANNING A THIRTY CLAIBRE MACHINE GUN ON THE PLATFORM BEHIND THE SIGNAL BRIDGE. 13 DIFFERENT OCCASIONS DURING THE ACTION I SAW A LIGHT PASS UP THE PORT SIDE OF THE SHIP GO OUT AHEAD AND PASS DOWN THE STARBOARD SIDE.

I BELIEVE THIS TO BE ONE OR MORE SMALL BOATS GOINT AT HIGH SPEED." SIGNE MATTHEW B. ALLASRE [redacted] SGT USMC AND DAVID A. PROUTY [redacted] L/CPL CUSM

B. STATEMENT OF SAN AUGUSTINE GMG 2 " ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 4 DURING THE ENGAGEMENT I WAS STATIONED ON THE THIRTY CALIBRE AFT OF THE SIGNAL BRIDGE. I SAW THE OATLINE OF A BOAT WHICH WAS SILHOUTED BY THE 3 INCH PROJECTIII BURSTS WHEN WE WERE FIRING AT IT." SIGNED JOSE R. SAN AUGUSTIN GMG2 4650116.

C. STATEMENT OF ENS CORSETTE "THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE FACTS TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF CONCERNING THE NIGHT ENGAGEMENT OF AUGUST 4. I AM UNABLE TO STATE TIMES OF SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. WORD RECEIVED TO CHECK BEARING 084 DE433Ω 5473 -T975 10 MULES. TURNER JOY HAD REPORTED A CONTACT IN THAT AREA. UPON CHECKING THAT BEARING DIRECTOR 51 LOCKED ON A CONTACT AT 037 DEGREES TRUE 23400 YARDS. PLOT REPORTED SOLUTION OF TARGET COURSE 200 SPEED 40 KNOTS. AFTER TRACKING AT ABOUT 20000 YARDS DIRECTOR 51 LOST TARGET. DIRECTOR 51 PICKED UP A CONTACT AT 093 DEGREES TRUE 9800 YARDS CLOSING. PLOT REPORTED SOLUTION AND BRIDGE GAVE WORD BATTERIES RELEASED. BEFORE I COULD COMMENCE FIRE DIRECTOR 51 LOST TARGET AND THE SHIP BEGAN MANEUVERING ERRATICLY TO EVADE TORPEDOED. DURING THE TIME OF THE

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PAGE 3 RUMFCR 342B ~~S E C R E T NOFORN~~

BATTLE MANY CONTACTS WERE GAINED BUT WAS UNABLE TO LOCK ON WITH DIRECTOR 51. I MIGHT ADD, THAT THE MARK 25 RADAR WAS OFF THE LINE FOR A PERIOD OF 20 TO 30 MINUTES DURING THE BATTLE DUE TO A CASUALTY. SIGNED R.B. CORSETTE ENS USN 667558 MAIN BATTERY DIRECTOR OFFICER DIRECTOR 51.

D. STATEMENT OF LTJG PANE "THESE ARE THE FACTS AS TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. CONCERNING THE TORPEDO BOAT ATTACK ON TUESDAY NIGHT 4 AUGUST 1964. THE MARK 56 DIRECTOR WAS DESIGNATED A TARGET AT 090 24000 YARDS. THE DIRECTOR TURNED TO THAT BEARING AND LOCKED ON TO A TARGET AT 091 24300 YARDS. THERE WERE TWO TARGETS AT THIS RANGE AND BEARING AND ONE MORE TARGET ABOUT 2000 YARDS FURTHER OAT. THE DIRECTOR TRACKED THE TARGEZ ON A STEADY BEARING WITH A SLIGHT DECREASE IN RANGE INDICATING APPROXIMATELY A PARALLEL COURSE AND SPEED. AFTER TRACKING THESE TARGETS FOR SEVERAL MINUTES THE DIRECTOR WAS ORDERED TO SHIFT TO A TARGET AT 091 9000 YARDS. THE DIRECTOR LOCKED ON AND THE TARGET HAD A FAST CLOSING RANGE. COMMENCE FIRE WAS GIVEN TO THE GUN MOUNTS, BUT THE RADAR LOST TARGET BEFORE THE MOUNTS OPENED FIRE. CHECK FIRE WAS THEN GIVEN. AFTER TRACKING THESE 2 TARGETS, SEVERAL OTHERS WERE DESIGNATED DURING THE FOLLOWING HOURS. HOWEVER THE DIRECTOR WAS UNABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY TRACK THEM.

PAGE 4 RUHLRL 1008A S E C R E T NOFORN

AT NO TIME DID I ACTUALLY SIGHT ANY TORPEDO BOATS" SIGNED KIETH J. BANE LTJG USNR [redacted]

2. A STATEMENT OF CAPT. JOHN J. HERRICK [redacted] USN CTG 72.1, COMDESDIV 192 RELATING TO THE SURFACE ACTION OF THE NIGHT OF 4 AUGUST

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1964 IN TONKIN GULF. ALERT FROM MY STATION IN THE COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER OF TJ FLAGSHIP USS MADDOX DD731, I OBSERVED THE RADAR PRESENTATION ON THE SURFACE SEARCH RADAR WHICH DISCLOSED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER CIC TRACKING PROCEDURES THAT THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 5 CONTACTS LYING IN WAIT FOR TG 72.1 ON ITS RETIREMENT TO THE EASTWARD FROM PATROL STATION CMGCMM (AS RCVD) INCREASED SPEED TO 30 KNOTS AND TURNED SOUTHEASTWARD APPROX 3 OF THESE CONTACTS PARALLELED OUR COURSE AT APPROX 28 KTS THE OTHERS PLOTTED MOVING TO THE NORTHWEST AT APPROX 25 (5A. THE HIGH SPEED CONTACTS WERE OBSERVED TO OPEN RANGE. UPON REACHING A RANGE 42 MILES, THE CONTACT WAS LOST BY BOTH FIRE CONTROL AND SURFACE SEARCH RADARS. ANOTHER CONTACT WAS GAINED AT 2111 BEARING 088, 13 MILES. (ALL OF THESE CONTACTS WERESCONCURRED IN BY THE CIC OF USS TURNER JOY WHO WAS ON STATION 1,000 YARDS ASTERN OF USS MADDOX). WHEN CONTACT WAS GAINED BY MADDOX IT WAS AT A BEARING OF 088 RANGE OF 13 MILES AND PARALLELING OAR COURSE AND SPEED. THIS CONTACT WAS LOST AT TIME 2133 AND NEW CONTACT GAINED AT 2134,

PAGE 5 47(B)(B) 1008A ~~S E C R E T NOFORN~~

BEARING 975 4-, &3 9000 YARDS CLOSING RAPIDLY.SAT 2137 AT RANGE 6200 YARDS IT TRACKED AS IF TURNING AWAY. AT THIS TIME TORPEDO NOISES WERE PICKED UP BY THE SHIPS SONAR AND THE WORD PASSED TO THE BRIDGE BY AN INSTALLED SPEAKER SYSTEM CALLED V29MC. HEARD THIS REPORT AND COULD ALSO HEAR WHAT SOUNDED TO ME LIKE TORPEDO NOISES (FROM THE SONAR STACK) IN THE BACKGROUND. USS MADDOX TOOK ACTION TO VOID THE TORPEDOES AND PROCEEDED ON A WEAVING COURSE. IN THE NEXT 2 HOURS MANY RADAR TARGETS WERE OBSERVED IN THE SCOPE IN AND NEAR THE FORMATION AND SEVERAL TORPEDO NOISES WERE HEARD ON THE SONAR. USS MADDOX HAS A TAPE RECORDING OF THESE. AFTER THE FIRST TARGET USS MADDOX DID NOT OBTAIN GOOD "LOCKONS" ON ANY TARGETS BUT DID FIRE ON SEVERAL SUSPECTED TARGETS. I HEARD RADIO REPORTS FROM USS TURNER JOY STATING THAT SHE HAD GOOD LOCKONS ON AT [illegible]

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WAS SURE SHE HAD OBTAINED HITS ON 2 TARGETS. MY SOARCES OF INFORMATION,

WERE FROM RADAR SCOPES, RADIO CIRCIUTS AND DESPALYED AND EVALUATED INFORMATION FROM THE CIC OF THE USS MADDOX. I HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO VISUALLY SIGHT BY UNAIDE HUMAN EYE ANY OF THE ACTION HOWEVER, IT IS MY OPINION THAT CERTAINLY A PT BOAT ACTION DID TAKE PLACE. THE NUMBER OF BOATS INVOLVED AND THE NUMBER OF TORPEDOES FIRED I CANNOT ACCURATELY DETERMINE. SIGNED CAPT JOHN J HERRICK [redacted] USN

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