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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director 

DATE: 11 April 1969

FROM : P04

In reply refer to:

P04/0750-69

SUBJECT: The PUEBLO Damage Assessment as Reported to the Members of USIB

1. As requested, I have again critically reviewed the PUEBLO Damage Assessment Report and find it to be a concise, factual report with very little editorializing or speculation to mislead the reader. As in any large report on a complex subject, there are passages that, if lifted out of context, could be argumentative. There is no way to avoid this.

2. Since the subject has been raised, there are a few points that should be made concerning this report and its place in the inevitable long string of follow on actions associated with the PUEBLO.

a. Our goal in producing this report was to report the technical facts surrounding the compromise in as much depth and detail as possible. Every fact was meticulously catalogued and verified. If there are ambiguous passages, then in fact, the information was less than clear and we have so indicated this in those areas.

b. There are factors surrounding this incident that point to culpability on the part of individuals and organizations. Here, the facts have been reported in a straightforward manner without detailed attribution as to the culprit. Our direction was assessment not indictment.

c. There are some in the Agency that feel this report should be used as a platform by NSA to achieve or correct situations we have not otherwise been able to address. I agree there are actions that should flow from the PUEBLO incident, however, I feel we would do our professional/technical responsibilities a disservice to engage in debate in this report.

d. The original NSA assessment to USIB was identified as the "worst case" situation. This report now tells USIB that not only was our "worst case" description accurate, but in addition, two and one-half months of superseded key was found to be compromised. A large

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number of highly classified SIGINT documents lost on the PUEBLO were not included in our original inventory and the PUEBLO crew were more talkative and cooperative than originally imagined. These facts certainly compound and strengthen our original assessment, not weaken it.

e. USIB has convened an Ad Hoc Group under Admiral Showers to take the SI and Non-SI damage assessment reports and produce an overall intelligence damage assessment as well as recommendations. NSA is represented in this group and I am sure this report will stimulate the desired USIB reaction to the PUEBLO incident.

3. I have met with Mr. Chiles and in the S Organization and have been assured that they agree with my reaffirmation of the reports validity.



(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

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