During the period 230310-0323Z January, Kukjibong Radar Station reflected the following information regarding a search of U.S. vessel off the East Coast of North Korea by North Korean Navy vessel.

During the above period, North Korean submarine chaser NR 034 informed on North Korean torpedo boat that she approached the target. The target was vessel named "SAR-1", a 300-ton class vessel which is used for radar operations.

She also stated that it was believed that the vessel was not armed, that it was an American vessel.

Approved for Release by NSA on 09-14-2012, FOIA Case # 40722
ALREADY BEEN CAPTURED BY THE SUBMARINE CHASER. FURTHER NOTIFIED THAT, AS OF PRESENT TIME, THE SUBMARINE CHASER IS ENTERING INSIDE THE SEA AREA WHERE THE PATROL CRAFT NR 11 IS LOCATED.

2. AT 230441Z JANUARY, COMINT DISCLOSED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHICH WAS POSSIBLY RELATED TO THE SEARCH OF U.S. VESSEL:

THE COMMUNICATIONS REVEALED TRACKINGS OF ONE NORTH KOREAN AIRCRAFT APPEARING 5 N/MILES OF NORTHEAST OF WONSAN AT 230441Z. THE AIRCRAFT WAS NOTED FLYING APPROXIMATELY 8 N/MILES OF NORTH OF CHANGJO'N, CIRCLED THERE AND WAS FLYING APPROXIMATELY 8 N/MILES EAST OF WONSAN AT 0525Z.

THE AIRCRAFT WAS FLYING AT ALTITUDES BETWEEN 2,000 - 3,800 METERS (6560 - 12444 FT) AND AT A SPEED OF 557 KM (300 KTS).

38.59N 127.30E AT 2441Z
38.59N 127.58E AT 2447Z
38.58N 127.15E AT 0450Z
38.18N 127.40E AT 0525Z
300
STATION INFORMED THE PATROL CRAFT NR 11 THAT TWO NAVAL VESSELS CAME DOWN FROM THE PROBABLE WONSAN BASE AND THEY WERE TAKING IN THE U.S. VESSEL TO SOXY UNIDENTIFIED LOCATION.

IT FURTHER INSTRUCTED THE PATROL CRAFT NR 11 TO STAND BY FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.
QUOTE DURING PERIOD 230405-0409J JANUARY, NORTH COREAN SUBMARINE

CHASER NR 235 REPORTED TO POSSIBLY KUKJIBONG RADAR STATION THAT

SHE WAS GOING TO USE A SMALL BOAT TO GO ABOARD THE AMERICAN VESSEL AND

SILENCE THE AMERICAN VESSEL'S COMMUNICATIONS, AND THAT SHE WOULD

TOW THE AMERICAN VESSEL INTO WONSAN HARBOR UNQUOTE.

070

230845Z
DURING THE PERIOD 230422-0450Z JANUARY, SUBMARINE CHASER NR 034 INSTRUCTED ALL NORTH KOREAN TORPEDO BOATS TO GET AWAY FROM THE AREA IN WHICH THE U.S. VESSEL WAS LOCATED, BECAUSE SUBMARINE CHASER NR 035 WAS GOING TO FIRE UPON THE U.S. VESSEL SINCE THE U.S. VESSEL WOULD NOT COMPLY WITH NORTH KOREAN NAVY INSTRUCTIONS.

SUBSEQUENTLY, THE SUBMARINE CHASER REPORTED TO KUKJIBONG RADAR STATION THAT IT HAD HALTED THE ESCAPE OF THE U.S. VESSEL BY FIRING WARNING SHOTS. LATER, KUKJIBONG RADAR STATION INSTRUCTED NORTH KOREAN NAVY PATROL BOAT NR 11 TO PREPARE FOR AIR COMBAT.
A ROUND THE 998106 120450-05 10Z, SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35

INSTRUCTED POSSIBLY THREE (3) NORTH KOREAN NAVY TORPEDO BOATS TO INFORM THE U.S. VESSEL VIA HAND-SIGNALS TO INCREASE SPEED.

B DURING THE PERIOD 230518-0515Z JANUARY, AN UNIDENTIFIED NORTH KOREAN NAVY TORPEDO BOAT INSTRUCTED ANOTHER TORPEDO BOAT TO OBSERVE CLOSELY AND DETERMINE WHETHER THE U.S. PERSONNEL WERE THROWING ANYTHING INTO THE WATER. IN ADDITION, THE TORPEDO BOAT WAS INSTRUCTED TO ESCORT THE U.S. VESSEL TO AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.


230932Z
INSTRUCTED TWO NORTH KOREAN NAVY TORPEDO BOATS TO REPORT THE
SUBORDINATION OF THE CAPTURED U.S. VESSEL AND CONFIRM AND REPORT
WHETHER THEY POSSESS ANY WEAPONS. IN REPLY, ONE OF THEM THE NORTH
KOREAN TORPEDO BOATS STATED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL
ABoard the U.S. VESSEL WAS SIXTY-FOUR. FURTHER SHE STATED THAT
SHE WAS CONFISCATING "HIGH-PERFORMANCE" AND "SNIPING" WEAPONS AND
THAT THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF WEAPONS WOULD BE REPORTED LATER.

SUBSEQUENTLY, A REFERENCE WAS MADE TO "FOR AMERICANS" POSSIBLY IN THE
CONTEXT THAT THESE FOUR WERE ARMED.
AVADOGID: NOB1998BER64N RADAR TRACKING INFORMATION DISCLOSES THAT TRACKINGS OF THE CAPTURED U.S. VESSEL AND NKNN ESCORTS CEASED IN THE SEA AREA LOCATED 6.5 N/MILES NORTHEAST OF NWSAN AT 0800Z. ADDITIONAL DETAILS FORTHCOMING.
FOllOwInG IS ADDITIONAl INFORMATION RELATING TO THE CAPTURE OF
THE U.S. VESSEL OFF THE EAST COAST OF NORTH KOREA:

AT 230155Z JANUARY, SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35 AND PATROL BOAT NR 11
REPORTED TO WONSAN NAVAL BASE THAT THEY WERE LOCATED NORTH OF
CHANGJON (38-44N 128-12E) AND THAT THEY WERE SAILING NORTH

AT 230350Z JANUARY, THREE NORTH KOREAN TORPEDO BOATS REPORTED TO
WONSAN NAVAL BASE THAT THEY WERE LOCATED IN THE SEA AREA
7 N/MILES EAST OF HO DO.

IN ADDITION, KALGOCH'IRI RADAR STATION REVEALED THE FIRST TRACKINGS
OF THE U.S. VESSEL, AT THAT IDENTIFIED AS UNIDENTIFIED VESSEL, AND

THE ABovementioned FIVE NORTH KOREAN VESSELS AT 0540Z.

THE TRACKINGS OF THESE VESSELS CEASED IN THE SEA AREA LOCATED 6.5
N/MILES NORTH EAST OF WONSAN AT 0650.

231116Z
THREE AIRCRAFT SUBORDINATE TO THE NORTH KOREAN AIR TRANSPORTATION BATTALION (ATB) WERE NOTED FLYING TO SO'NDO'K. THESE AIRCRAFT WERE FLYING AT ALTITUDES BETWEEN 600-2000 METERS (1900-6700 FT).

DETAILS FOLLOW:

A. AT 230700Z AN UNDISCLOSED BASE QUEBED ONE AIRCRAFT OF ATB AS TO WHETHER IT WAS FLYING TO SO'NDO'K. IN REPLY,

1. WAS STATED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS FLYING TO SO'NDO'K FROM POSSIBLE AECHE'ON DIVERSITY AT 230652.0

B. TWO TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT OF THE ATB REPORTED TO HAN UNDISCLOSED BASE THAT THEY RECEIVED FUEL AT SUNAN AND WERE IN FLIGHT IN THE DIRECTION OF POSSIBLY SO'NDO'K BASE.

C. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE FOURTH ATB AIRCRAFT WAS FLYING WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED THREE AIRCRAFT AT AN ALTITUDE OF 2000 METERS.

D. DURING RADAR TRACKINGS UNDISCLOSED THAT ONE LARGE TYPE ATB AIRCRAFT, POSSIBLY ONE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED AIRCRAFT, FLW TO WONSAN.

E. LATER, COMINT DISCLOSED THE PROBABLE DEPARTURE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED LARGE TYPE ATB AIRCRAFT FROM WONSAN.

DISCLOSED RADAR TRACKINGS OF AN UNDISCLOSED TYPE AND NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT FLYING A WESTERLY COURSE FROM WONSAN AREA (39 12 N 127 15 E) AT 1357Z.

1. AT 1357Z, TRACKINGS OF THIS ACTIVITY CEASED AT A POSITION LOCATED 39 05 N 126 40 E. COMPUTED GROUND SPEEDS OF AIRCRAFT WAS 162 KNOTS WITH A REPORTED ALTITUDE OF 5,500 FEET.

2. COMMENT: COURSE OF THIS ACTIVITY TENDS TO INDICATE THAT AIRCRAFT INVOLVED MAY BE HZADED FOR PYONGYANG.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE LOAD DISPOSITION OF AIRCRAFT INVOLVED WAS DISCLOSED IN COMINT.
VESSEL, WITH 64 PERSONNEL REPORTED ABOARD, OPERATING IN THE SEA AREA APPROXIMATELY 23 N/MILES OFF EAST COAST, WAS CAPTURED BY FIVE NORTH KOREAN NAVY VESSELS. DETAILS FOLLOW:

A. DURING THE PERIOD 230310-0323Z, NORTH KOREAN NAVY SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35 INFORMED AN UNIDENTIFIED NORTH KOREAN NAVY TORPEDO BOAT THAT SHE (35) HAD APPROACHED A 300-TON CLASS AMERICAN VESSEL WHICH IS USED FOR RADAR OPERATIONS SIX TIMES THE U.S. VESSEL WAS EQUIPPED WITH MANY RADAR AND RADIO ANTENNAS.

B. DURING THE PERIOD 230335-0345Z JANUARY, KUKJIBONG RADAR STATION INFORMED PATROL BOAT NR 11 THAT SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35 SAILED NORTH AND CAPTURED ONE AMERICAN VESSEL, AND IT INSTRUCTED THE PATROL BOAT NR 11 TO STAND-BY, SINCE THE SUBMARINE CHASER WOULD HAVE TWO NORTH KOREAN NAVY POSSIBLE TORPEDO BOATS FORCE THE CAPTURED AMERICAN VESSEL TO SAIL INTO WONSAN HARBOR.

C. DURING THE PERIOD 230405-0408Z, THE SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35 REPORTED TO POSSIBLE KUKJIBONG RADAR STATION THAT SHE WAS GOING TO USE A SMALL BOAT TO GO ABOARD THE AMERICAN VESSEL AND SILENCE THE AMERICAN VESSEL'S COMMUNICATIONS.

D. DURING THE PERIOD 230412-0431Z JANUARY, NORTH KOREAN SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35 INSTRUCTED ONE NORTH KOREAN TORPEDO BOAT TO REPORT TO THE 'HIGHER UNIT' THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION,' SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35 WOULD HAVE ONE OFFICER TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY AND THAT THE OFFICER AND FIVE OTHER MEN WOULD GO ABOARD THE CAPTURED AMERICAN VESSEL, BUT
AMERICAN VESSEL TO WONSAN HARBOR.

6. DURING THE PERIOD 230425-0438Z JANUARY, SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35 INSTRUCTED POSSIBLY THREE NORTH KOREAN TORPEDO BOATS TO GET AWAY FROM THAT AREA WHERE THE AMERICAN VESSEL WAS LOCATED BECAUSE THE SUBMARINE CHASER WOULD FIRE WARNING SHOTS SINCE THE CAPTURED AMERICAN VESSEL DID NOT COMPLY WITH NORTH KOREAN NAVY INSTRUCTIONS. SUBSEQUENTLY, SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35 REPORTED TO TO KUKJIBONG RADAR STATION THAT SHE HAD HALTED THE ESCAPE OF THE AMERICAN VESSEL: 231730Z.
STATED THAT THE VESSEL WOULD FIRE WARNING SHOTS SINCE THE AMERICAN VESSEL DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE NAVY INSTRUCTIONS.

F. DURING THE PERIOD 230450-0510Z JANUARY, SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35 INFORMED TWO NK NAVY TORPEDO BOATS THAT SHE WOULD LEAD THE CAPTURED AMERICAN VESSEL, AND INSTRUCTED THESE TWO TORPEDO BOATS TO SAIL VERY CLOSE TO THE CAPTURED VESSEL AND TO INFORM THE U.S. VESSEL VIA HAND-SIGNALS TO INCREASE SPEED. IN ADDITION, DURING THE PERIOD WZXTQPA PTQST JANUARY, AN UNIDENTIFIED NORTH KOREAN NAVY TORPEDO BOAT INSTRUCTED ANOTHER TORPEDO BOAT TO OBSERVE CLOSELY AND DETERMINE WHETHER THE U.S. PERSONNEL WERE THrowing ANYTHING INTO THE WATER. FURTHERMORE, THE TORPEDO BOAT WAS INSTRUCTED TO ESCORT THE U.S. VESSEL TO AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.

G. DURING THE PERIOD 230518-0528Z JANUARY, SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35 INFORMED THE POSSIBLE THREE NORTH KOREAN NAVY TORPEDO BOATS THAT PERSONNEL ABOARD THE U.S. VESSEL WERE THROWING ARTICLES INTO THE WATER AND ALSO WERE DESTROYING THE ARTICLES WITH FIRE.

H. DURING THE PERIOD 230555-0714Z JANUARY, SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35 INSTRUCTED TWO NORTH KOREAN NAVY TORPEDO BOATS TO REPORT THE SUBORDINATION OF THE CAPTURED AMERICAN VESSEL AND CONFIRM AND REPORT WHETHER THEY POSSESS ANY WEAPONS, IN REPLY, ONE OF THE NK NAVY TORPEDO BOATS STATED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ABOARD THE U.S. VESSEL WAS SIXTY-FOUR. FURTHER SHE STATED THAT SHE WAS CONFISCATING "HIGH-PERFORMANCE" AND "SNIPING" WEAPONS AND THAT THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF WEAPONS WOULD BE REPORTED LATER. SUBSEQUENTLY, A REFERENCE WAS MADE TO "FOUR AMERICANS", POSSIBLY IN CONTEST THAT THESE FOUR WERE ARMED.
I. AT 230152 JANUARY, SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35 AND PATROL BOAT

DOCID: S998161

RE-11 REPORTED TO WONSAN NAVAL BASE THAT THEY WERE LOCATED 20 N/

MILES (39-00N 128-13E) NORTH OF CHANGJ0'N AND THAT THEY WERE SAIL-

ING NORTHEAST OF WONSAN EEP DEGREES); AT 230350Z JANUARY, 5 EE

ORTH KOREA TORP BOAT YKMR 604 AND TWO UNIDENTIFIED REPORTE

D TO WONSAN NAVAL BASE THAT THEY WERE LOCATED IN THE SEA AREA 7

N/MILES (39-20N 127-42E EAST OF HODO, AND THAT THEY WERE SAILING

EAST (90 DEGREES). IN ADDITION, AT 0540Z, KALGOCH'IRI RADAR STATION

REVEALED THE FIRST TRACKINGS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED II

VI, NK NAVY VESSELS

738

\[ 231730z \]

THE IDEA REVEALED THAT ONE NORTH KOREAN AIRCRAFT.

1. AT 230700Z AN UNDISCLOSED BASE QUERIED ONE AIRCRAFT OF THE ATB AS TO WHETHER IT WAS FLYING TO SO'NDO'K. IN REPLY, IT WAS STATED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS FLYING TO SO'NDO'K FROM POSSIBLE TAECH'O'N BASE AT 230655Z.

2. TWO TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT OF THE ATB REPORTED TO AN UNDISCLOSED BASE THAT THEY RECEIVED FUEL AT SUNAN AND WERE IN FLIGHT IN THE DIRECTION OF POSSIBLE SO'NDO'K BASE.

3. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT A FOURTH ATB AIRCRAFT WAS FLYING WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED THREE AIRCRAFT AT AN ALTITUDE OF 2000 METERS.

4. FURTHER, RADAR TRACKINGS PASSED BY UNDISCLOSED THAT ONE LARGE TYPE ATB AIRCRAFT, POSSIBLY ONE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED AIRCRAFT FLEW TO WCNSAN.
AFTERMENTIONED LARGE TYPE AT A CCSFT FROM WONSUF. DISA

A HOLESEEYRADAR TRACKINGS OF AN UNDISCLOSED TYPE AND NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT FLYING A WESTERLY COURSE FROM WONSAN AREA (39 12 15 127 15E) AT 1337Z.

AT 1337Z, TRACKINGS OF THIS ACTIVITY CEASED AT A POSITION LOCATED 39 05N 126 48E. COMPUTED GROUND SPEEDS OF AIRCRAFT WERE 162 KNOTS WITH A REPORTED ALTITUDE OF 6,500 FEET.

(6) COURSE OF THE ABOVE ACTIVITY TENDS TO INDICATE THAT AIRCRAFT INVOLVED WERE HEADED FOR EITHER PLYONYANG OR SUNAN.

COMMENTS

A. THE REASON FOR THE TIME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE VOICE

(b)(1)
(b)(3)-50 USC 403
(b)(3)-18 USC 798
(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

237382
COMMUNICATIONS OF KUKJIBONG RADAR STATION AND TRACKING BY KALGOCH'RI (EACH INDICATING ENCOUNTERS WITH THE AMERICAN VESSEL) IS POSSIBLY THAT MORE THAN ONE ENCOUNTER TOOK PLACE AND THAT THE AMERICAN VESSEL DID NOT COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY THE NORTH KOREAN VESSELS DURING THE FIRST ENCOUNTER.

E. DURING THE PERIOD FROM THE TIME OF THE FIRST ENCOUNTER THROUGH THE TIME OF THE VESSELS' ARRIVAL AT WO'NSAN, NORTH KOREAN AIRCRAFT WERE FLYING IN THE VICINITY OF THAT ACTIVITY AREA ON THREE OCCASIONS. THIS FLIGHT ACTIVITY IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO ASSIST NORTH KOREAN VESSELS IN CAPTURING THE U.S. VESSEL. THE FLIGHTS BY THE FOUR TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT TO SO'NDO'K IS POSSIBLY RELATED TO THIS ACTIVITY.