NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

COMINT REPORT

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THE ISHTAR DESIGNATOR APPLIES TO PARAGRAPHS 1, 2 AND 3 OF PART 1,
PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 OF PART 2, AND THE LAST SENTENCE IN PART 3.
FURTHER SIGINT REFLECTIONS OF NORTH KOREAN ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE CAPTURE OF THE USS PUEBLO

The following is further COMINT reflections of North Korean service activity related to the capture of the USS Pueblo. This report summarizes information available through 261800Z.

1. NORTH KOREAN NAVY (NKN)

At 251453Z January, the Haeju Naval Base on the west coast sent combat readiness signals to its subordinate vessels. At 260259Z COMINT revealed indications of possible engagement between NKN vessels and unidentified hostile vessels. During conversation between Haeju Naval Base and nine subordinate vessels Haeju queried whether they were able to observe the probable vessel(s) located at an undisclosed area. It further instructed that "enemy vessels and our vessels" have encountered and they should carry out surveillance on a timely basis. (There is presently no evidence in COMINT that an engagement took place between North Korean and "enemy" vessels, subsequent to the Pueblo incident. Possibly related to the Haeju order was a message from Namp'o Naval Base which instructed its subordinate radar station at Kukseong to submit the results of observation of unidentified vessel activity immediately.

At 261823Z January, a conversation between Wonsan Naval Base and an unidentified subordinate station indicated unidentified personnel from Supreme Naval Headquarters were now at Wonsan Naval Base. During this conversation Wonsan informed subordinates that communications would be maintained trouble free at all costs, which indicate that the personnel from Naval Headquarters were of considerable rank.

PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES
AT 25105Z JANUARY AN UNIDENTIFIED TORPEDO BOAT REQUESTED PERMISSION FROM WO'NSAN TO LOAD TORPEDOS. ON 26 JANUARY, WO'NSAN ALSO INSTRUCTED TORPEDO BOATS 610 AND 613 TO STRENGTHEN THEIR AIR SURVEILLANCE DUTY. THE AREA OF THE TORPEDO BOATS IN BOTH INSTANCES WAS NOT GIVEN, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY WERE NEAR SHORE.

2. NORTH KOREAN AIR FORCE (NKAF)

IN NKAF ACTIVITY, FIGHTERS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE THROUGHOUT THE DAYLIGHT HOURS OF 25 AND 26 JANUARY IN SEARCH PATROL FLIGHTS OVER THE TONGJO'SON BAY. THESE AIRCRAFT ARE PATROLLING AN AREA GENERALLY BOUNDED BY 39°-50N TO THE SOUTH, BY 40°-30N TO THE NORTH AND EXTENDING OUT TO AS FAR AS 128°-55E ON THE NORTHEAST PORTION OF THE FLIGHT PATTERNS. THE MAJORITY OF FIGHTERS INVOLVED IN THESE PATROLS ARE MIG-17'S FROM 2ND FIGHTER DIVISION AIRFIELDS; HOWEVER, MIG-21 AIRCRAFT FROM THE ___________ WERE NOTED IN ROUND ROBIN FLIGHTS TO THE TONGJO'SON BAY AREA ON 25 JANUARY. ___________ FIGHTERS HAVE ALSO BEEN NOTED IN LOCAL FLIGHTS IN THEIR DIVISIONAL AREAS THROUGHOUT THE DAYLIGHT HOURS.
NCAF IL-28 bomber/reconnaissance aircraft of the

have also been noted in virtually continuous

flights to the Tongj'0'0'n Bay area. These bombers, operating in

round robin flights from Sunan, have been active during the day­

light hours of 25 and 26 November and also throughout the evening

of 25 January. These flights are generally being flown from Sunan

to Wo'nean, where they will occasionally orbit, and then northeast

to the Sinp'o area where they again orbit for a short period. The

IL-28's then usually continue northeast to the Kilch'ang area before

returning to Sunan.
3. NORTH KOREAN ARMY (KKA)

ON 25 JANUARY COMINT REVEALED A DECREASE IN COMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS IN THE NORTH KOREAN ARMY AREA. ALSO, ON THE SAME DATE, UNUSUAL COMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS WERE NOTED BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (MND) AND AN UNIDENTIFIED UNIT BELIEVED DIRECTLY SUBORDINATE TO MND. COMINT HAS NOT REVEALED ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITY WITHIN OTHER ARMY GROUP AREAS, HOWEVER, SEVERAL REFERENCES TO UNIDENTIFIED UNITS INSTRUCTING SUBORDINATES TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS IN A READINESS STATUS HAVE BEEN NOTED.

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