SIGINT REFLECTIONS OF NORTH KOREAN CAPTURE OF USS PUEBLO

THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE SIGINT ON THE
NORTH KOREAN CAPTURE OF THE USS PUEBLO ON 23 JANUARY 1968.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM THE USS PUEBLO, SHE WAS JOINED BY
THREE NORTH KOREAN NAVY (NKN) P-4 PATROL CRAFT (604, 604, 604)
AND MIG AIRCRAFT WERE CIRCLING OVERHEAD AT 230408Z, SHE WAS
BEING BOARDED BY NKN PERSONNEL AT 230445Z, AND SHE WAS ORDERED TO
FOLLOW INTO WO'NSAN (39-10N 127-26E) AT 230502Z. THE USS PUEBLO
WENT OFF THE AIR AT 230532Z.

THE INITIAL SIGINT INDICATION OF THIS ACTIVITY OCCURRED ON
NKN SHIP TO SHIP, AND SHIP TO SHORE COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE
PERIOD 0310-0323Z WHICH INDICATED THAT A NKN SUBMARINE CHASER
(34) AND A NKN TORPEDO BOAT (11) WERE APPROACHING A "300 TON
AMERICAN VESSEL NAMED EAR-1/ (PROBABLY AGER 1) WHICH IS USED FOR
RADAR OPERATIONS AND WHICH IS NOT ARMED". SUBSEQUENT COMMUNICATIONS
BETWEEN A KUK-CHI-BONG RADAR STATION (38-42N 128-17E) AND A NKN
PATROL CRAFT AT 0355-0357Z STATED THAT NKN SUBMARINE CHASER 34
HAD CAPTURED THE U.S. VESSEL AND IT WAS BEING ESCORTED BACK
TOWARD WO'NSAN. BETWEEN 0405-0408Z SUBMARINE CHASER 34
REPORTED TO KUK-CHI-BONG RADAR STATION THAT SHE WAS GOING TO
A SMALL BOAT AND C/O ABOARD THE AMERICAN VESSEL "SILENCE
THE VESSEL'S COMMUNICATIONS" AND TOW THE U.S. VESSEL INTO
NORTH KOREAN AIR FORCE (NKAF) AND AIR DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS

INDICATED THAT AT LEAST EIGHT NKAF 2ND FIGHTER DIVISION PROBABLE MIG-17's CONDUCTED DEFENSIVE PATROLS BETWEEN 0406Z AND 0610Z OVER THE AREA WHERE THE USS PUEBLO WAS CAPTURED BY NKN VESSELS. THE NKAF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT ORBITED WITHIN AN 18 NAUTICAL MILE RADIUS OF 39.25N 127.33E. NKAF COMMUNICATIONS ALSO REVEALED A MINIMUM OF FOUR NKAF AIR TRANSPORT BATTALION (ATB) PROBABLE L-2 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT FLYING FROM T'AEG'CH'ÖN AIRFIELD (39.54N 125.29E) TO SONDOK AIRFIELD (39.45N 127.29E) BETWEEN 0716Z AND 0731Z.

SIGINT DID NOT DISCLOSE WHETHER THIS NKAF TRANSPORT ACTIVITY WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE CAPTURE OF THE USS PUEBLO.

NORTH KOREAN ARMY (NKA) COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE PERIOD 0223007 AND 230021Z REVEALED INSTRUCTIONS TO ASSUME BATTLE PREPARATIONS, BUT THE EXTENT OF THIS READINESS POSTURE IS STILL UN-CLEAR. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THIS IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE NKN CAPTURE OF THE USS PUEBLO.

ADDITIONAL SUMMARY REPORTS WILL BE RELEASED AS INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.