SIGINT REFLECTIONS OF NORTH KOREAN CAPTURE OF USS PUEBLO

INITIAL SIGINT INDICATIONS OF ANY HOSTILE INTENT TOWARD THE USS PUEBLO OCCURRED ON NORTH KOREAN NAVY (NKN) SHIP TO SHIP AND SHIP TO SHORE COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE PERIOD 230318-0323Z WHICH INDICATED THAT A NKN SUBMARINE CHASER (34) AND A NKN TORPEDO BOAT (11) WERE APPROACHING A "350-TON AMERICAN VESSEL NAMED EAR-1 (PROBABLE CORRUPTION OF GER-II) WHICH IS USED FOR RADAR OPERATIONS AND WHICH IS NOT ARMED". AT 230335Z COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN KUCHIKBONG RADAR STATION (38-42N 128-17E) AND AN UNIDENTIFIED PATROL CRAFT STATED THAT NKN SUBMARINE CHASER 34 HAD CAPTURED THE U.S. VESSEL AND IT WAS BEING ESCORTED BACK TOWARD WONSAN. AT 230405Z SUBMARINE CHASER 34 REPORTED TO KUCHIBONG RADAR STATION THAT SHE WAS GOING TO USE A SMALL BOAT AND GO ABOARD THE AMERICAN VESSEL, "SILENCE THE VESSEL'S COMMUNICATIONS", AND TOW THE U.S. VESSEL INTO WONSAN HARBOR.

ARTICLES OVERBOARD AND DESTROYING ARTICLES WITH FIRE.


AT 230555Z NKFD SUBMARINE CHASER 35 INSTRUCTED TWO NKFD TORPEDO BOATS TO REPORT THE SUBORDINATION OF THE CAPTURED VESSEL AND TO CONFIRM REPORTS THAT THE VESSEL WAS UNARMED. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ONE OF THE NORTH KOREAN TORPEDO BOATS STATED THAT THERE WERE 64 PERSONS ABOARD AND THAT SHE WAS CONFISCATING "HIGH PERFORMANCE" AND "SNIPING" WEAPONS, THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF WHICH WOULD BE REPORTED LATER.

BETWEEN 230629Z AND 1113Z NKFD SUBMARINE CHASER 35, PATROL BOAT 11, TORPEDO BOAT 604, AND PATROL BOATS 12, 13, AND POSS 21 WERE NOTED ACTIVE OFF THE NKFD COAST OF WO'NSAN.

AT 230716Z NKAF COMMS REFLECTED AT LEAST FOUR ATB LI-2 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT FLYING FROM T'AECH'O'N AIRFIELD TO WO'NSAN AIRFIELD. AT 231333Z SIGINT REVEALED THE DEPARTURE OF AT LEAST ONE ATB PROBABLE LI-2 FROM WO'NSAN PROBABLY ENROUTE TO P'YO'NGYANG'S MIRIM-NI AIRFIELD. SIGINT DID NOT DISCLOSE A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP OF THIS FLIGHT TO THE CAPTURE OF THE USS PUEBLO.

THE POSITION STATUS REPORTS PASSED BY NKFD SUBMARINE CHASER 35 AND THE NKFD TORPEDO BOATS INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBMARINE CHASER 35</th>
<th>DISTANCE FROM NEAREST NK LAND MASS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0155Z 39-01N 128-11E</td>
<td>12.5 NM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0227Z 39-11N 127-54E</td>
<td>8 NM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0240Z 39-15N 228-00E</td>
<td>13.5 NM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0300Z 39-25N 127-56E</td>
<td>18.5 NM</td>
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</tbody>
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TORPEDO BOATS

$450Z  39-26N  128-02E  23 NM (POSITION IMMEDIATELY AFTER FIRING)

$350Z  39-25N  127-41E  6 NM
$480Z  39-21N  127-53E  15 NM
$525Z  39-19N  127-57E  18 NM
$539Z  39-23N  127-59E  13 NM

Based on the time correlations of the positions reports being passed by NKN vessels, communications between the NKN ships and radar stations, and final transmissions from the USS Pueblo itself, the US vessel was attacked and boarded some 23 NM from the North Korean coast.