

~~TOP SECRET TALK~~SIGINT REFLECTIONS OF NORTH KOREAN CAPTURE OF USS PUEBLO

INITIAL SIGINT INDICATIONS OF ANY HOSTILE INTENT TOWARD THE USS PUEBLO OCCURED ON NORTH KOREAN NAVY (NKN) SHIP TO SHIP AND SHIP TO SHORE COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE PERIOD 230310-0323Z WHICH INDICATED THAT A NKN SUBMARINE CHASER (34) AND A NKN TORPEDO BOAT (11) WERE APPROACHING A "300-TON AMERICAN VESSEL NAMED EAR-1 (PROBABLE CORRUPTION OF GER-II) WHICH IS USED FOR RADAR OPERATIONS AND WHICH IS NOT ARMED". AT 230335Z COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN KUKCHIBONG 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 WO'NSAN. AT 230405Z SUBMARINE CHASER 34 REPORTED TO KUKCHIBONG 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 WO'NSAN HARBOR.

DURING THE PERIOD 230406-0610 THE NORTH KOREAN AIR FORCE (NKAF) AND AIR DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS INDICATED THAT AT LEAST EIGHT NKAF 2ND DIVISION MIG-17'S WERE CONDUCTING DEFENSIVE PATROLS OVER THE AREA WHERE THE USS PUEBLO WAS CAPTURED. BETWEEN 230422Z AND 0450Z NKN SUBMARINE CHASER 34 INSTRUCTED ALL NKN TORPEDO BOATS TO GET AWAY FROM THE AREA BECAUSE NKN SUBMARINE CHASER NR 35 WAS GOING TO FIRE ON THE U.S. VESSEL; HOWEVER, THE NKN SUBMARINE CHASER 35 SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED THAT IT HAD HALTED THE ESCAPE OF THE U.S. VESSEL BY FIRING WARNING SHOTS. AT 0450Z NKN SUBMARINE CHASER 35 PASSED A POSITION REPORT OF 39-26N 128-02E (APPROXIMATELY 23 NM FROM THE NEAREST LAND MASS IN NORTH KOREA). SHORTLY AFTER SUBMARINE CHASER 35 REPORTED TO KUKCHIBONG THAT SHE HAD HALTED THE ESCAPE OF THE U.S. VESSEL, KUKCHIBONG INSTRUCTED NKN PATROL BOAT 11 TO PREPARE FOR AIR COMBAT. AT 230450Z, NKN COMMUNICATIONS DISCLOSED THAT NKN TORPEDO BOATS WERE ORDERED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE U.S. PERSONNEL WERE THROWING ANYTHING INTO THE WATER. LATER AT 230518Z NKN SUBMARINE CHASER 35 REPORTED THAT U.S. PERSONNEL WERE THROWING

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ARTICLES OVERBOARD AND DESTROYING ARTICLES WITH FIRE.

AT 0540Z THE FIRST NKN TRACKING MESSAGE WAS PASSED ON THE USS PUEBLO PLACING HER AT 39-18N 128-05E WHEN THE NKN SUBMARINE CHASER AND THE PATROL CRAFT WERE AT 39-21N 128-01E. THE TRACKS ON BOTH VESSELS MERGED AT AN APPROXIMATE POSITION OF 39-18N 127-59E AT 0610Z. ALL NKN RADAR TRACKING REPORTS CEASED AT 0800Z WITH THE VESSELS LOCATED AT 39-15N 127-30E.

AT 230555Z NKN SUBMARINE CHASER 35 INSTRUCTED TWO NKN 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 1130Z NKN SUBMARINE CHASER 35, PATROL BOAT 11, TORPEDO BOAT 604, AND PATROL BOATS 12, 13, AND POSS 21 WERE NOTED ACTIVE OFF THE NKN 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 231337Z 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 NKN SUBMARINE CHASER 35 AND THE NKN TORPEDO BOATS INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>SUBMARINE CHASER 35</u>	<u>DISTANCE FROM NEAREST NK LAND MASS</u>
0155Z 39-01N 128-11E	12.5 NM
0227Z 39-11N 127-54E	8 NM
0240Z 39-15N 128-00E	13.5 NM
0300Z 39-25N 127-56E	18.5 NM

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

TORPEDO BOATS

#350Z	39-20N	127-41E	6 NM
#400Z	39-21N	127-53E	15 NM
#525Z	39-19N	127-57E	18 NM
#530Z	39-23N	127-50E	13NM

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.