

~~TOP SECRET~~Serial: N 0266
12 February 1968*Quelch file*
VI~~TOP SECRET~~MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES F. LEONARD,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, INRSUBJECT: Draft Reply to Questions Asked by Senator Fullbright
Relating to USS FUEBLO

1. This responds to yesterday's informal request for NSA review of the subject draft reply. The opportunity for coordination is appreciated.
2. Specific comments and recommendations relating to various answers in the draft are contained in the Inclosure hereto.
3. In regard to Question 10, I concur that it would not be in the national interest to provide any more intercepted material than has already been used by Ambassador Goldberg. I strongly recommend use of your "Alternative paragraph on Question 10", page 4, of your draft, but suggest you may wish to omit the last sentence thereof.

/s/ MARSHALL S. CARTER

MARSHALL S. CARTER
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
DirectorIncl:
a/scc: DIR (3) 
L2
Reading File
D1
Mr. Price
ADP
ADN

M/R: Self-explanatory.

Approved for release by NSA on 01-13-2014, Transparency Case# 63391

~~GROUP 3
Downgraded at 12 year
interval, not
automatically declassified~~~~TOP SECRET~~ L. R. SCHULZ, RADM, USN, ADN, 12 Feb 68, avh

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**NSA COMMENTS ON 11 FEBRUARY KOREAN TASK FORCE,
STATE DEPARTMENT, DRAFT REPLY TO FULLBRIGHT QUESTIONS**

1. Question 1, page 1. Propose altering the last three sentences on this page (beginning with the word "Prior") to read as follows:

"Beginning in 1961, the Navy fitted out several large auxiliary ships called Technical Research Ships, and

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The results were useful, and early in 1965 a proposal was made to develop a number of small intelligence . . . (as continued on page 2)."

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

Reason: Accuracy and need to be consistent with answer to paragraph 5.

2. Question 2. Propose altering the last page of the answer as follows:

"Ships provide a good platform for such collection because they are stable and can linger in their areas of operation where wanted signals can be heard and collection can be accomplished."

Reason: Clarity, and to avoid entree to discussion about aircraft and satellites which could become sensitive.

3. Question 3. Propose altering the next to last paragraph of the answer to read:

"The National Security Agency did not have overall responsibility for the PUEBLO."

Reason: Consider categorical negative answer better since any expansion or qualification would seem to require explanation.

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4. Question 4, page 2. In the first line, propose insert "COMNAVFOR JAPAN" ahead of "CTF 96" and place the latter phrase in parenthesis.

Reason: To identify who CTF 96 is.

5. Question 6. In the answer, propose change the word "transmission" to "communications."

Reason: There was more than one transmission.

6. Question 7, paragraph 8 of answer. Propose delete the parenthetical note and substitute the following one instead:

"(It can be seen from the above that the exact time of boarding is uncertain.)"

Reason: It seems likely from some of the information asked for in Question 10, that there was, in fact, only one "boarding." Therefore, it is better not to cause speculation that there were two.

7. Question 12, page 2. In the second paragraph on this page after the sentence ending, "by US men of war" insert the following sentence:

"USS BANNER, the first AGER, was configured in 1965."

Reason: To make the statement consistent with the one in answer to Question 1 (see comment on Question 1, above).

8. Question 12, page 2. Propose delete the sentence beginning, "If the Russian AGIs . . ." and the next two sentences finally ending with "strikes against North Korea."

Reason: Not a good statement to make in view of fact USNS MULLER now has an escort, a destroyer.

9. Question 12b. Assume enclosures 3 through 5 do not contain any codeword material. Also, it is noted that the Senator did not ask

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for a list of crypto equipment or crypto publications. It is strongly recommended that this information not be released on the basis that it exposes additional classified information and will probably invite further questions as to U. S. crypto posture and details of the equipment.

10. Question 12b. Propose omit the third from last sentence of the answer (beginning with the words, "This many men . . .").

Reason: It is a questionable statement, since it is actually very difficult to complete such destruction, and they were unable to do so as the rest of the answer states. Also, the sentence to be deleted could be taken as a reflection on the men involved, which we would not wish to do.

11. Question 3, TAB 1. I recommend furnishing only the concept, i. e., paragraphs 1 through 4 of enclosure (1) to CNO(OP30), Serial 0001726 dated 12 Nov 1965, rather than the complete memorandum. This would avoid exposing additional detail and inviting questions thereon.

12. Question 5. It is assumed that no codeword material is included in enclosure 2. If any is included, it should be removed.

13. Question 1. I recommend the following change to improve the accuracy of the statement and decrease its sensitivity. Delete the sentences in the last ten lines of page 2, beginning with, "In addition," and ending with combat operations. Substitute the following:

"In addition, there are six Technical Research Ships (TRS) which are tasked solely by NSA to accomplish national SIGINT collection objectives. Two are Military Sea Transportation (MSTS) ships crewed by civilian merchant seamen. The remaining four are United States Navy ships. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These ships operate in all parts of the world as dictated by U. S. intelligence needs. Two ships are deployed to Southeast Asia and provide support to our military operations in that area."

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

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