- V (Jan 1968)

Q. How long did Captain of PUEBLO have to destroy his equipment after determining he was going to be boarded?

A. According to a PUEBLO message of 0416Z an armed party attempted to board the PUEBLO - This appears to be the first actual attempt made by the NK to board the vessel.

In a message of 0445Z the PUEBLO reported "Boarded at 39.24N."

At 0450Z PUEBLO reported destroying classified documents.

At 0510Z to 0515Z North Korean vessels reported observing US personnel jettisoning material.

From 0518Z to 0528Z North Korean vessel #35 informed three patrol boats that US personnel destroying articles by fire and jettisoning ashes and additional articles.

If the Captain started to destroy classified equipment and materials at the time the attempt was made to board the PUEBLO by the North Koreans at 0416Z, he then had 29 minutes of uninterrupted time in which to carry out this destruction. However, according to SIGINT reflections the North Korean patrol boats in their communications reported US personnel jettisoning ashes and articles. These last reflections were at 0510Z. Therefore although the North Koreans boarded at 0445Z, destruction was still going on an additional 25 minutes.

Of course the Captain could have ordered destruction of classified materials before the actual first attempt to board and could have continued some time after 0510Z.

Bob:

Have above to DIA Rep . . . requested by ADDO for input to briefing by Ben Taylor to President.

DDA

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