

SECRET

CHRONOLOGY OF ACTION REGARDING THE PUEBLO
(In Eastern Standard Time - "E")

January 10

Pueblo departs Sasebo under orders to maintain radio silence unless she was under surveillance.

January 22

2050E Pueblo breaks radio silence, transmits two Situation Reports and other data. Describes sighting of NK patrol craft on January 20, close contact with fishing trawlers on January 21 about 2225E, 18 other contacts subsequently, and gives several position reports (all in international waters). These two routine Situation Reports were received as follows:

Situation Report No. 1:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 2203E
CINCPAC	- 0302E (January 23)
CINCPACFLT	- 0303E (January 23)
Pentagon (NMCC)	- 0550E (January 23)

Situation Report No. 2:

CINCPAC	- 0315E (January 23)
CINCPACFLT	- 1047E (January 23)
Pentagon	- 1455E (January 23)

2252E Pueblo reports encounter at 2200E with North Korean patrol craft which requested nationality. Pueblo raised ensign. NK craft signaled: "Heave to or I will open fire on you." Pueblo responded: "I am in international waters." Pueblo reports intention to remain in area, if possible; otherwise to withdraw to northeast. This message was relayed CRITIC by the receiving station in Japan.

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State Department review completed.

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January 22 (cont'd)

Message received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 2313E
CINCUNC Headquarters	- 2340E
Pentagon (NMCC)	- 2346E
CINCPAC	- 0010E (January 23)

2315E Pueblo reports surrounded by NK patrol craft, receiving signal: "Follow my wake, have pilot aboard." Two MIGs sighted circling overhead. One patrol craft preparing boarding party. This message was also relayed CRITIC immediately following transmission of the previous one.

Message received:

COMNAVFORJAPAN	- 2322E
CINCUNC	- 2340E
Pentagon (NMCC)	- 2346E
CINCPACFLT	- 0056E (January 23)
CINCPAC	- 0139E (January 23)

2318E Pueblo reports NK craft plan to open fire. Relayed from Japan as Follow Up 1 to CRITIC.

Message received:

Pentagon	- 2346E
CINCPAC	- 2355E

2328E Pueblo reports being boarded; holding emergency destruction. Message relayed as Follow Up 2 to CRITIC.

Message received:

Pentagon	- 2349E
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January 22 (cont'd)

2335E COMNAVFORJAPAN requests assistance from 5th Air Force.

2345E Pueblo reports being escorted into probably Wonsan.
Message relayed from Japan, retransmitted by DIRNSA.

Message received:

CINCPAC	- 0103E (January 23)
Pentagon	- 0101E (January 23)

2346E Messages sent by Pueblo at 2252E, 2315E, and 2318E, all of which were relayed CRITIC from Japan, arrive in NMCC and other watch offices in Washington. NMCC notifies other agencies and Chairman, JCS, Deputy Secretary Defense. Other agencies notify senior officials including Bundy, Hughes, and Read at State, Rostow at White House.

January 23

0000E Pueblo reports being requested to follow into Wonsan. Had not used any weapons, is destroying as much equipment and documents as possible, 3 men wounded and one has leg blown off.

Message received:

CINCPAC	- 0052E
Pentagon	- 0053E

0015E Commander 5th Air Force receives message from COMNAVFORJAPAN.

0018E Pueblo reports that almost everything had been destroyed but that destruction incomplete, some things will be compromised.

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January 23 (cont'd)

This message was received only by DIRNSA in Washington and re-transmitted by DIRNSA at 0236E.

Message received:

Pentagon - 0302E
CINCPAC - 0549E

0023E Secretary McNamara notified. Consults Secretary Rusk.

0032E Pueblo reports going off air: destroying gear. (Final message.)

Message relayed by Japan - 0034E

Message received:

CINCPAC - 0110E
Pentagon - 0119E

0046E Commander 5th Air Force calls CINCPACAF and alerts 18th Tactical Fighter Wing, Okinawa.

0048E 5th Air Force orders deployment of aircraft from Okinawa to Osan, SK.

0130E Rostow calls NMCC, then CINCPAC.

0211E Aircraft launched from Okinawa but CINC 5th AF, together with CINCPACAF, concludes that properly configured aircraft could not reach Pueblo before darkness and that no effective action is possible to aid Pueblo.

0215E McNamara, Bundy, Goulding confer on status of Pueblo and press release.

0225E President notified.

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