

~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

25 January 1968

MEMORANDUM: Chronology of Events Concerning
the Seizure of the USS Pueblo

1. All times are given in Zulu (Greenwich) and Eastern Standard Time; For North Korean time add 14 hours. Note: Incident occurred between 1200 (Noon) to 1430 Korean time. All information is based on the latest available reporting.

10 January 1968

USS Pueblo arrived on station off the North Korean coast for a three and one-half week SIGINT collection operation.

19 January 1968

200850Z - 200350 EST
Position of Pueblo reported as 41-50N, which is the northern most position reached by the Pueblo.

21 January 1968

220600Z - 220100 EST
Pueblo reported its position as 39-14.8N 128-07.0E. (DIW) Pueblo's direction of travel was changed from south to northeast.

220915Z - 220415 EST
Pueblo reported sighting two North Korean ships at an estimated 1000 yards range at 220325Z. They appeared to be fishing boats.

22 January 1968

230100Z - 222000 EST
Pueblo reported its position as 39-24.0 N 127-59.0 E. Pueblo reported it was steaming north.

[REDACTED]

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~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

25 January 1968

[REDACTED]

22 January 1968

[REDACTED]

230300Z - 222200 EST

Pueblo encountered North Korean subchaser Nbr. 35 at 39-25.2N 127-55.0E approximately 17 nautical miles off North Korean coast and 24 nautical miles from Wonsan. Subchaser hoisted signal "heave to or I will open fire on you" Pueblo was dead in the water. Patrol craft circled several times. Pueblo hoisted US Ensign and by signal advised the North Koreans he was in international waters. Pueblo advised COMMAND FOR JAPAN of its intention to remain in the area if feasible or otherwise withdraw slowly to the northeast.

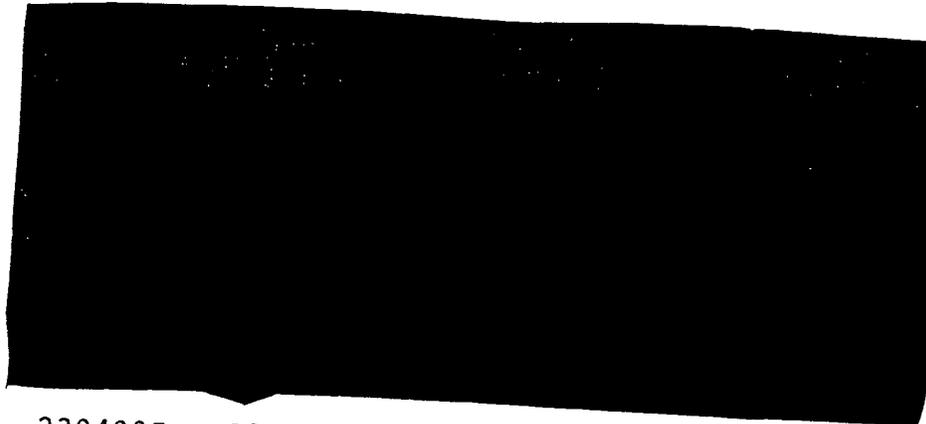
[REDACTED]

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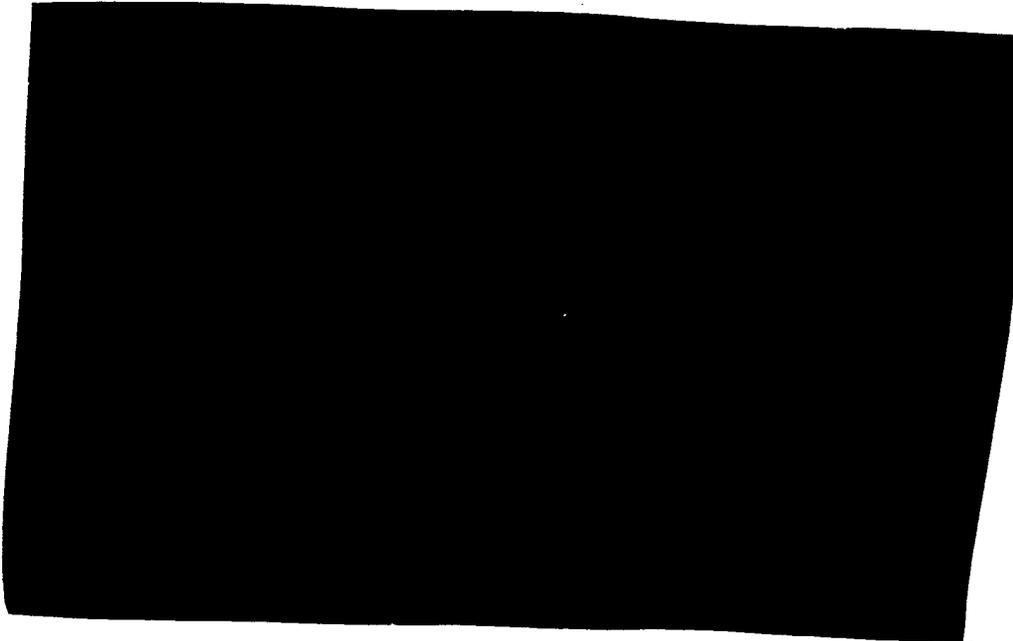
25 January 1968

22 January 1968



230400Z - 222300 EST

Pueblo reported North Korean subchaser Nbr. 35, joined by three patrol craft (Nbrs. 601, 604, and 606), hoisted a signal to "follow my wake." Two MIG's circling overhead. Patrol craft 604 backed towards Pueblo's bow with fenders rigged. Armed landing party said to be on the bow of Pueblo. Pueblo departing area under escort.



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~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

25 January 1968

[REDACTED]

230429Z - 222329 EST

Pueblo reported three North Korean torpedo boats and one subchaser have surrounded her and plan to open fire now at 230429Z.

230445Z - 222345 EST

Pueblo reported being boarded by North Korean personnel. [REDACTED]

230445Z - 222345 EST

Pueblo reported boarding by North Korean personnel. Position given as 39-25N 127-543E. SOS was also sent.

230450Z - 222350

Pueblo reported it was probably being escorted into Wonsan.

[REDACTED]

~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

25 January 1968

[REDACTED]
230510Z - 230010 EST

Pueblo reported it had three wounded and one man with his leg blown off. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] North Koreans have requested Pueblo to follow their patrol boats into Wonsan. Pueblo has not used any weapons nor uncovered its 50 caliber machine guns. Pueblo also reported that it did not intend to offer any resistance.

230525Z - 230025 EST

Pueblo reported [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] keeping circuit as possible.

[REDACTED] States intention of [REDACTED] open as long

230532Z - 230032 EST

Pueblo reported "have been directed to come to full stop." Pueblo reported it was going off the air now.

23 January 1968

231021Z - 0521EST

CINCPACFLT ordered COMSEVENTHFLT to place a destroyer with appropriate air cover outside a 12-mile limit off Wonsan, North Korea.
[REDACTED]

231136 . - 0636EST

COMSEVENTHFLT directs Enterprise to proceed into the Sea of Japan, provide air cover, and position one destroyer off Wonsan to be joined by a second destroyer when available.

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TOP SECRET [REDACTED]

231515Z - 1015EST

COMSEVENTHFLT directed Osborn to get underway from Buncker Bay to rendezvous with US TG 70.6.

[REDACTED]

231047Z - 1347EST

CINCPACFLT directed fleet units to proceed no further north than present position and not to position a destroyer off Wonsan. (On receipt, Enterprise maintained stationary PIM [Position Impended Movement] 34-00 N 128-42 E, subsequently moved south to 32-30 N 127-30 E to gain sea room.)

23 January 1968

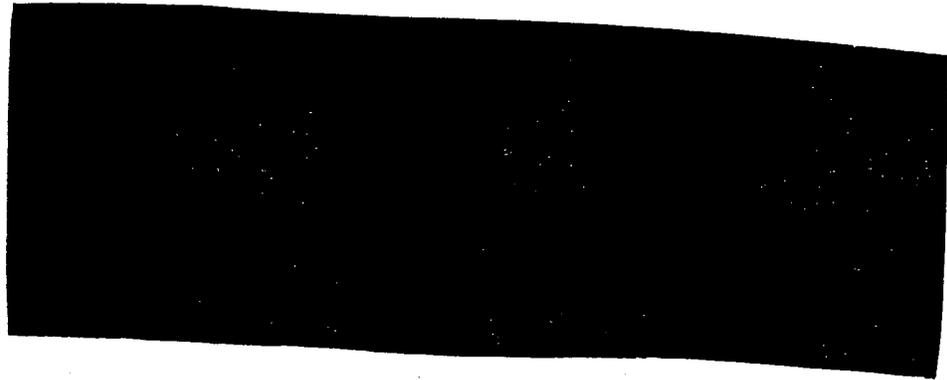
[REDACTED]

232241Z - 1741EST

CINCPAC directs CINCPACAF to deploy 12 F-105s and 8 F-4Cs to Osan, South Korea.

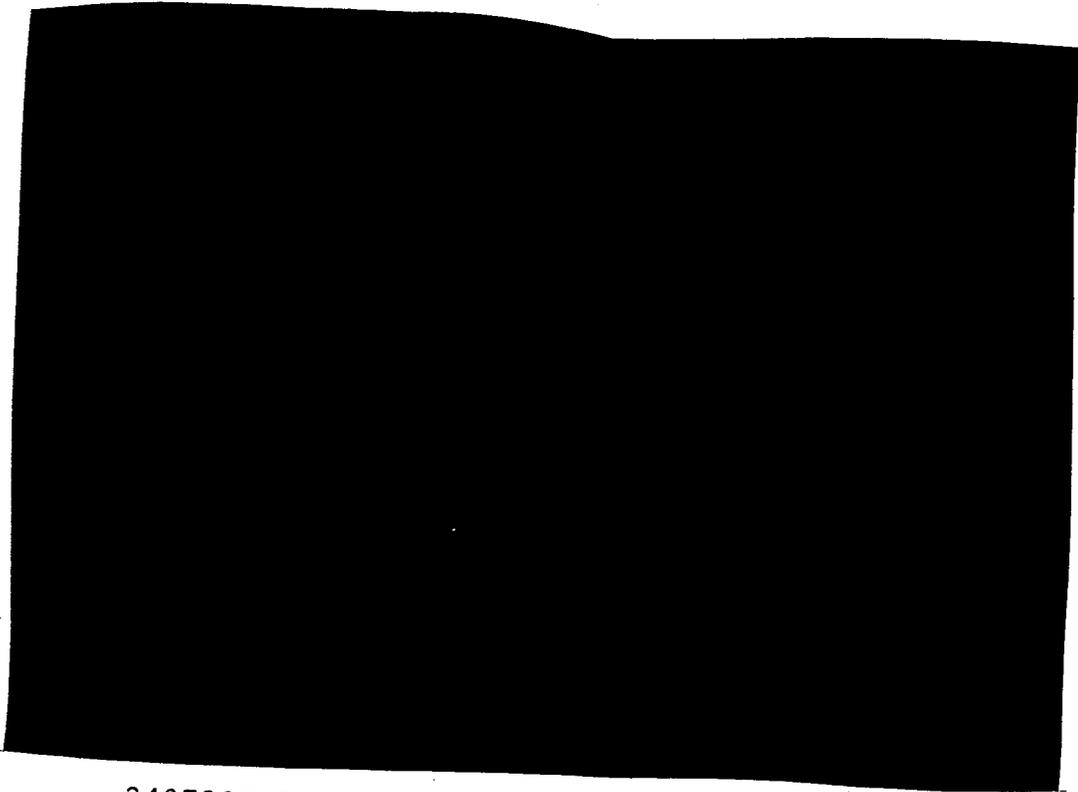
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232309Z - 231809EST

JCS directed CINCPAC to have the Enterprise and Task Group 70.6 move to position 35-30N 130-15E (approximately 40 n.m. off Pusan) with ETA of 241800 EST.



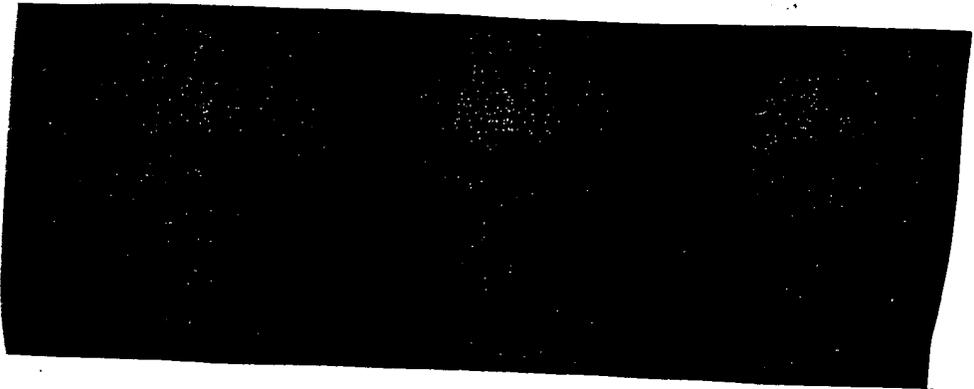
240730Z-240230EST

Enterprise joined Higbee, Truxton and Osbourn, now circling in rendezvous area at 32-50 N

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127-46E. Collett and O'Bannon steaming
for rendezvous, ETA Collett 0350 EST,
O'Bannon 1930 EST.



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