

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

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24 January 1968

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
24 January 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

PUEBLO SITREP  
(as of 0700 EST)

1. North Korea is continuing to take a hard line on the Pueblo incident.

2. At today's Military Armistice Commission meeting at Panmunjom the senior Communist delegate, Maj. Gen. Pak Chung-kuk, flatly rejected a US demand for the immediate return of the Pueblo and its crew. He charged the Pueblo had committed "intolerable provocations" when it "illegally infiltrated (into North Korean waters) on an espionage mission" and further claimed the Pueblo's crew had fired on North Korean patrol boats.

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[redacted] 15.5 to 17 miles from the nearest North Korean land mass. US Rear Adm. John V. Smith had demanded that Pyongyang return the ship and its 83-man crew, apologize for the incident, and be aware that the US reserves the right to demand compensation.

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5. The US Task Force led by the nuclear powered aircraft carrier Enterprise, with destroyers Higbee, Truxton, and Osborn has moved to a new rendezvous area 120 nautical miles south of South Korea and 120 nautical miles southwest of Sasebo, Japan. The destroyers Collett and O'Bannon are steaming toward this rendezvous point.

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