

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Task Force
(OPSCEN)
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OCI No. 01912/68

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
31 January 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Pueblo Sitrep No. 25
(As of 5 PM EST)

1. North Korea has indicated it may eventually be willing to discuss the Pueblo issue with the US at Panmunjon. Kim Kwang-Hyop, a member of the secretariat of the central committee of North Korea's communist party, said today in Pyongyang that "there is a precedent for the treatment of similar cases (as the Pueblo incident) at the Korean Military Armistice Commission." "It is a miscalculation," Kim continued, "if the US imperialists think that they can solve the incident of the intrusion of the Pueblo into the territorial waters of our country by military threats or by the method of aggressive war or through illegal discussion at the United Nations." He added, however, that "it will be a different story if they want to solve this question by method of the previous practice."
2. The precedent Kim mentions probably refers to negotiations at Panmunjon in 1963-1964 which resulted in the release of two US helicopter pilots downed in North Korea.
3. According to preliminary reports, the destroyer Rowan was in a collision with a Soviet merchant ship at 2:52 PM this afternoon. The Rowan was accompanying the Ranger task group about 50 miles off the South Korean coast. The Soviet ship, the 11,000 tons Kapitan Vislobokov, was en route to Odessa from Vladivostok when the collision occurred. There is no information yet on the extent of the damage suffered by either ship.

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No Foreign Dissem

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No 0634/68

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
1 February 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Supplement to Pueblo Sitrep No. 25

(Information as of 12 Midnight 31 January)

1. At 1:53 PM EST on 31 January the USS Rowan, a destroyer escorting the attack carrier Ranger, was involved in a collision with a Soviet merchant ship. The Soviet ship--the merchant vessel Kapitan Vislobokov--approached the Rowan, which was returning to its station after replenishment, from the north. The two ships' courses gave the Rowan the right of way which required it to maintain course and speed until in clear danger of colliding with the other ship.

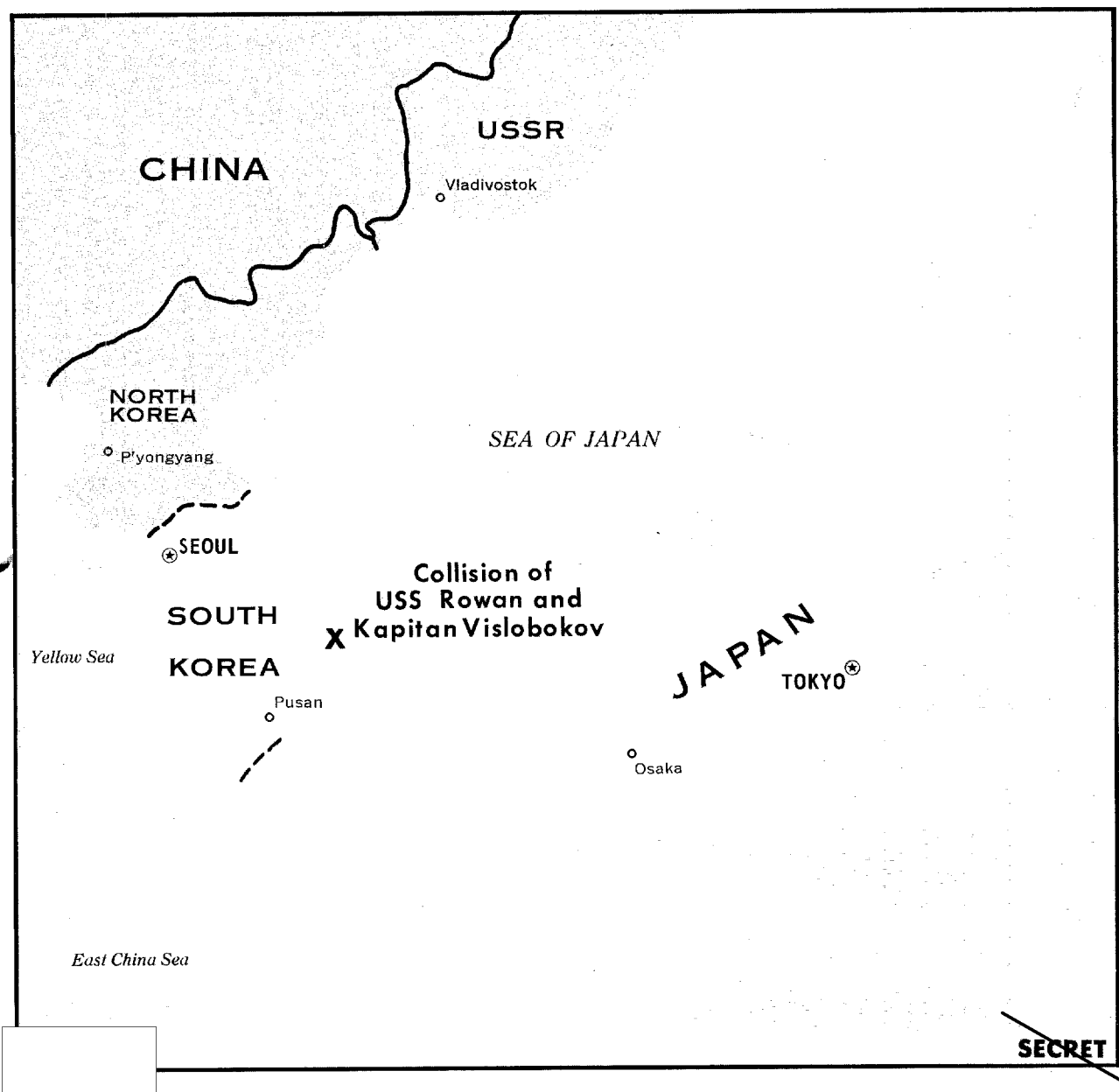
2. The Rowan maintained speed until a collision appeared imminent, whereupon the Rowan turned away from the path of the Soviet ship and one minute later gave the emergency-collision signal and reversed its engines. The collision occurred three minutes later.

3. The Rowan received a three-foot hole above the waterline on the port (left) side. The Soviet ship signaled it had "damage to my stern two meters in length" and "no assistance required".

No Foreign Dissem

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