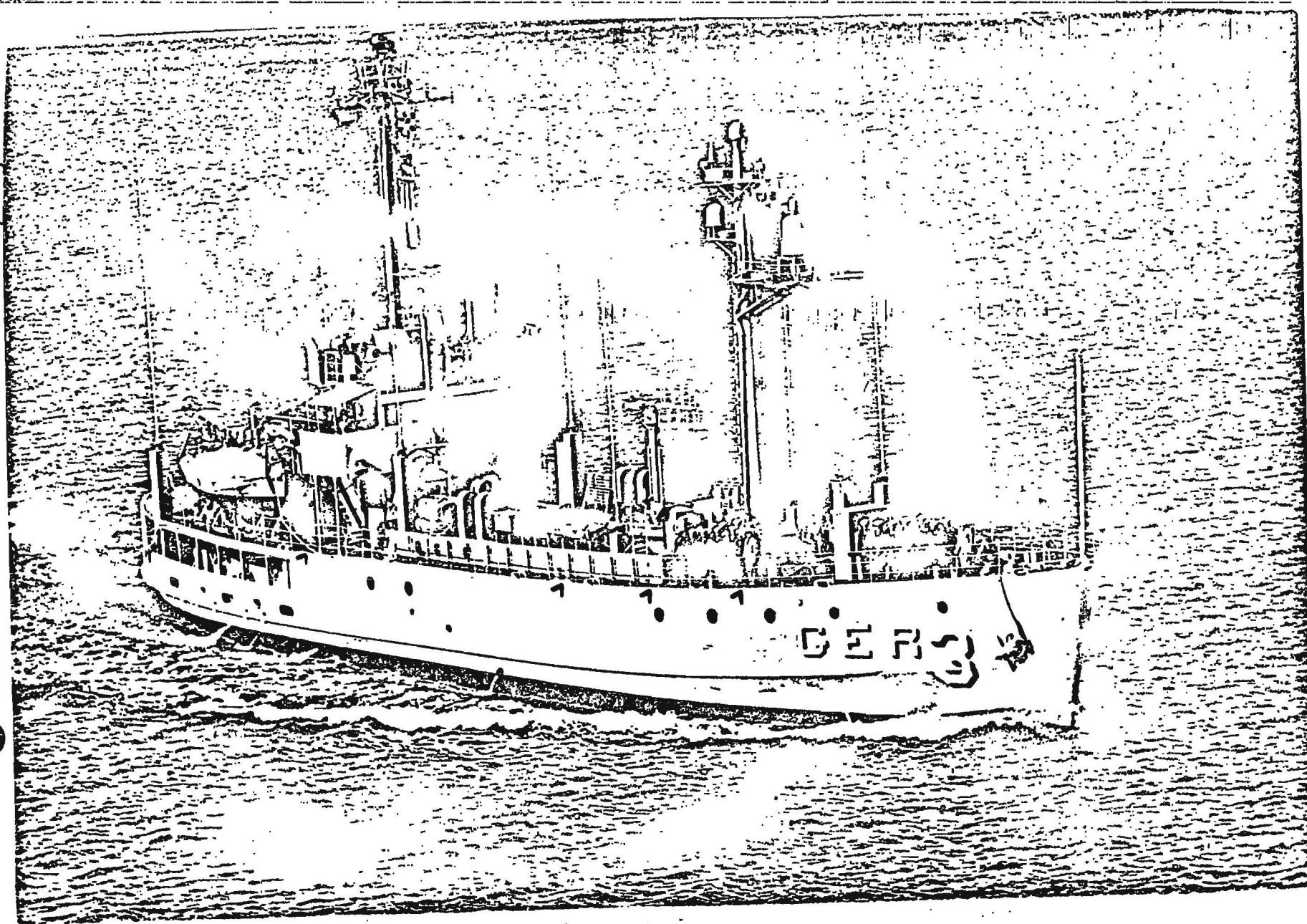


(23 Jan 68)

II, III, IV*Early NSA Report*

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USS PALM BEACH - SISTER SHIP OF USS PUEBLO

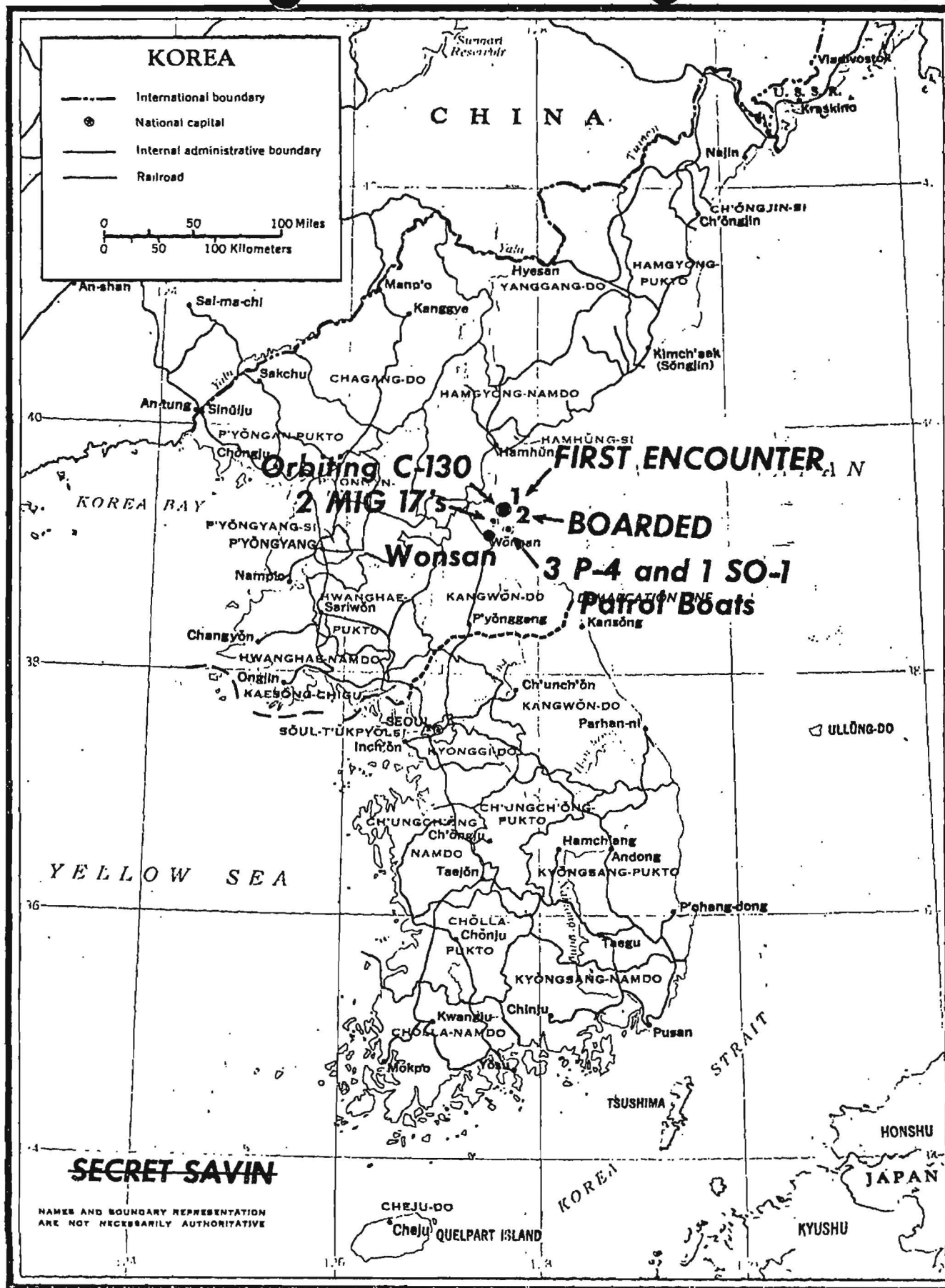
~~SECRET SAVIN~~~~NOFORN~~~~LIMITED DISTRIBUTION~~PUEBLO INCIDENT

At 23/0300Z the U.S.S. PUEBLO -- a SIGINT shipboard platform, was encountered by one KORCOM S.O. 1 Class submarine chaser at a point 20 nautical miles from the nearest land mass. The KORCOM vessel circled the PUEBLO three times during which the KORCOMs queried nationality and ship type. The KORCOMs then signaled PUEBLO to heave to or be fired on. At 0400, three additional KORCOM P-4 Class patrol boats joined the S.O. 1. At 0416Z two KORCOM MIG fighters were noted circling the PUEBLO. At 0435Z, PUEBLO was fired on and 4 U. S. personnel were wounded, one critically. The PUEBLO was subsequently boarded at 0445Z and forced towards the KORCOM port of Wonsan; when boarded the PUEBLO was 21 N.M. from the nearest KORCOM land mass.

During the encounter, the PUEBLO was in contact with KAMI SEYA. The PUEBLO reported that all key lists were being destroyed but several publications will be compromised. Contact with the PUEBLO was lost at 0545Z when all communications equipment aboard was destroyed.

The PUEBLO offered no resistance and didn't fire her armament. There were 31 Cat III cleared personnel aboard the PUEBLO at the time of the incident.

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Introduction

USS Pueblo (AGER 2) is one of three converted AKC's (light cargo ship) currently configured for intelligence collection, including SIGINT.

The Pueblo departed Yokusuka Japan on 4 January and proceeded to Sasebo Japan. She departed Sasebo, Japan on 102100Z January for operations in the Sea of Japan, primarily off the coast of North Korea.

The purpose of the patrol as expressed by CINCPACFLT was to:

- (1) Determine nature and extent of naval activity vicinity of North Korean ports of Chongjin, Sonjin, Mayang, Do and Wonson.
- (2) Sample electronic environment of East Coast North Korea, with emphasis on intercept/fixing of coastal radars.
- (3) Intercept and conduct surveillance of Soviet naval units operating Tsushima Straits in effort to determine purpose of Soviet presence in that area since February 1966.
- (4) Determine Soviet and North Korean reaction to an overt intelligence collector operating near periphery and conducting surveillance of naval units.
- (5) Report any deployment of North Korean/Soviet units which might indicate a change in the WESTPAC threat level.
- (6) Evaluate USS Pueblo (AGER 2) capabilities as a naval surveillance ship.

USS Pueblo is a converted AKL. The conversion was made by Bremerton Naval Shipyard in 1967 and the ship was commissioned on 13 MAY 1967.

The principal characteristics of the ship are as follows:

Length	210 feet
Beam	44 feet
Draft	17 feet
Displacement	1800 tons
Speed	12.2 knots
Personnel -	approximately 40 General Service 31 Naval Security Group

SIGINT Configuration

Rack 1, 2, 3, 4

Radio Printer/Sub System Capability .

2 TT 289 Printer
 2 URA 17 Demodulator
 2 Converters
 2 R390 Receivers
 1 4 track Recorder

Rack 5 and 6

Radiotelephone

1 VLF Receiver 2174 Rycon
 1 HF/VHF Receiver CEI 519
 2 VHF Receivers R1385
 2 SDU
 1 R175 4 track Recorder

Rack 7

DF Capability

AN/BRD-6 HF/VHF to 160 MHZ

Rack 8 and 9

Manual Morse

1 VLF Receiver CEI 351
 2 R390
 1 narrow band Recorder R175 (4 track)
 2 FSK converters and patch capability to printers
 1 typewriter

Rack 10, 11, and 12

ELINT

AN/WLR-1

Rack 13 and 14Rack 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20

(b) (1)
 (b) (3)-50 USC 403
 (b) (3)-18 USC 798
 (b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

(b) (1)
(b) (3)-50 USC 403
(b) (3)-18 USC 798
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

Rack 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20VHF/UHF Telemetry

VHF Pan/Man Search 30-10000 MHz w/dispaly
Frequency converter and scope
Notch filter, etc.
PPM Demodulator, Frequency converter (baseband translator)
2 Wideband Recorders
1 Narrowband Recorder
R-31 Pan/Man Search Capability with heads for 1-2 GG, 2-4 GG, 4-8 GG
Lin/Log Receivers
3 VHF Receivers w/SDU's (Telemetry)
1 2 KC Receivers
1 2-4 GC Receivers
2 Down Converters (pre-de)

Rack 21

Narrow Band Recorder
4 VHF Crystal Telemetry Receivers

Ancillary Equipment

Patchable from all applicable positions

Sonograph capability KAY 606
Sulzor 10 PFG
Time Displays
Vicicorder
Narrow Band Recorder (15 KC)

(b) (1)
 (b) (3)-50 USC 403
 (b) (3)-18 USC 798
 (b) (3)-P.L. 96-36

Gist of NSA tasking



UHF Sch/Dev (1200-2000 MHZ)
 NKAF Comms (20-50/100-150/MG (60-70) R105/8/9/401/R822)
 NKA 20-60 R105/8/702/308
 NKA [REDACTED]
 NKN RT 30-150 MHZ S/S/R105/108/702/308
 NKN [REDACTED]

ELINT Sch with emph on foll sigs and attempt to determine locations

Cruise Missile associated emitters B323I, B330Z, G302Z

[REDACTED] C306A
 [REDACTED] C314Z
 F309Z [REDACTED]
 A312Z [REDACTED]

(b) (1)
 (b) (3)-50 USC 403
 (b) (3)-18 USC 798
 (b) (3)-P.L. 96-36

Concept of Operations:

USS Pueblo operates under a concept of operations mutually agreed to by CNO and NSA. The concept calls for five possible modes of operations, each having a varying degree of control. This particular patrol was conducted in accordance with CINCPACFLT message 130406Z December 1967 which placed the ship under primary Navy control for coverage of Soviet Naval activity in Tsushima Straits and KORCOM Naval activity in Sea of Japan. Secondary (DIRNSA) collection requirements were solicited for this particular patrol and were provided as requested.



41°

39°

NSA Involvement:

On 6 December 1967, NSA requested CINCPACFLT provide schedule for trawler operations in the Pacific, to include dates, modes of operation and proposed operational area. (Tab A) CINCPACFLT response on 13 December 1967 stated USS Pueblo would operate in North Korea/Tsushima Straits area from 5 January to 5 February 1968. (Tab B)

On 20 December 1967, in response to a query from NSA provided some limited details on Pueblo operations and pointed out that technical support material would be provided by NSA to arrive prior to ships departure. (Tab C)

On 29 December 1967, NSA forwarded collection requirement to DIRNAVSECGRU for USS Pueblo (USN 467Y). (Tab D)

NSA released two additional messages on 29 December 1967 - one advised the SIGINT community of the proposed Pueblo operation and requested they be especially alert and report any reflections of North Korean reaction via appropriate product (Tab E) The second message was passed to JCS/JRC providing them with some SIGINT factors which could be used in assessing the risk to the platform, pointing out that the North Koreans were extremely sensitive to peripheral reconnaissance in this specific area. (Tab F)

COMMAND DIRECTIVES AND APPROVAL AUTHORIZATIONS

CINCPAC in a message to JCS on 23 Dec 67 requested authorization to conduct PUEBLO operations during period 8 Jan-4 Feb 68 (Tab G). JCS/JRC subsequently approved the proposed operation on 2 Jan 68 (Tab H).

GTF 96 passed sailing orders to USS PUEBLO on 5 Jan 68 outlining operating area, communications and rules of engagement. (Tab I). This was subsequently answered on 11 Jan 68 as ship was unavoidably delayed in Sasebo. (Tab J).

Control of SIGINT activities is outlined in CINCPACFLT 290111Z Sept 67 which states technical control of SIGINT functions vested in DIRNSA. (Tab K).