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MEMORANDUM FOR USIB PRINCIPALS

SUBJECT: NSA Damage Assessment Report Concerning the Loss
of the USS PUEBLO (e)

1. Reference is made to USIB-S-13.5/44, dated 14 May 1968 (NSA Serial: N0668, 13 May 1968), Subject: Assessment of the Loss of the USS PUEBLO.
2. On 13 May 1968 I provided the Members of USIB with an initial damage assessment statement concerning the capture of the USS PUEBLO (AGER-2) on 23 January 1968. This statement contained an NSA judgment, based on a worst case circumstance, of the damage that could result from the compromise of an unknown amount of SIGINT/COMSEC material and equipment carried aboard the vessel. In anticipation of the possible release of the crew of the USS PUEBLO, NSA and the Naval Security Group (NSG) established a SIGINT team to interview COMINT-cleared or knowledgeable crew members in order to obtain detailed information on the extent of the loss of COMINT material and communications equipment, which would permit a more complete and thoroughly assessed final report to the Intelligence Community.
3. The debriefing of the crew of the USS PUEBLO has been completed and a final SIGINT/COMSEC damage assessment has been prepared by NSA based upon the information obtained by the NSA and NSG teams. This joint effort involved approximately 40 civilian and naval personnel

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and over 8 weeks of uncommonly difficult work, and I am justifiably proud of these people for the diligence and professional competence demonstrated by them in compiling this report.

4. An outline of the total report, which is divided into eight sections, is as follows:

- I. SUMMARY OF CRYPTOLOGIC ASSESSMENT
- II. SUMMARY OF CRYPTOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT
- III. CONCLUSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS
- IV. CRYPTOLOGIC DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
- V. CRYPTOGRAPHIC DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
- VI. DEBRIEF SUMMARIES
- VII. TARGET COUNTRY SUPPLEMENTS
- VIII. COMPARTMENTED ACTIVITIES SUPPLEMENT

5. The NSA information base concerning the cryptologic and cryptographic damage assessment resulting from the loss of the USS PUEBLO has been organized into three major categories:

a. The first category (sections I, II and III) describes and assesses the complete cryptologic and cryptographic damage, and provides conclusions and observations concerning the overall loss. It is bound as a single document and is inclosed herein as my assessment of COMINT and COMSEC damage for the USIB.

b. The second category (sections IV and V) are technical volumes containing all the pertinent details available on SIGINT/COMSEC materials compromised. This information is bound in three volumes, two cryptologic and

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one cryptographic, and will be part of the information base used by the USIB Ad Hoc Working Group chaired by DIA in its analysis and assessment of the total intelligence impact resulting from the loss of the USS PUEBLO.

c. The third category of information (sections VI, VII and VIII) contains crew debrief summaries (one volume) to be maintained only by NSA at this time because of the sensitivity of the comments contained therein; individual target country supplements corresponding to the internal NSA analysis effort, which will be used as an analytic aid within NSA; and lastly, a document assessing the damage accruing to cryptologic related compartmented activities. This latter document will be provided by separate channels by NSA to those Agencies and Departments having primary interest in these activities. This volume will get no further distribution unless I am directed otherwise by the Board.

6. In summary, the NSA cryptologic and cryptographic damage assessment, and conclusions and observations, are inclosed as an attachment to this memorandum. These, and the detailed cryptologic and cryptographic assessments (sections IV and V) have been provided to the USIB Ad Hoc Working Group for its use. The inclosures, therefore, should be considered the final NSA damage assessment report. NSA will, however, continue to closely observe the communications activity of North Korea, North Vietnam [redacted] [redacted] the Soviet Union and Communist China, and report to the Board any reflection of significant changes which can be possibly attributed to the loss of the USS PUEBLO.

MARSHALL S. CARTER
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Director

3 Incls:
a/a

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

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M/R: 1. The instant memorandum for USIB Principals provides them with a final damage assessment report based upon the capture of the USS PUEBLO, the compromise of COMINT/COMSEC materials and equipment, and the results of a detailed debriefing of the crewmen and analysis of the information resulting therefrom.

2. The inclosures being provided the USIB are a) a summary of cryptologic assessment, b) a summary of cryptographic assessment and c) conclusions and observations. The above documentation is also being provided to the USIB Ad Hoc Working Group under Admiral Showers, DIA, along with three other NSA technical volumes which treat extensively of the COMINT/COMSEC assessment of damage. All of this NSA material will be part of the information base used by the USIB Working Group in its analysis and assessment of the total intelligence impact resulting from the loss of the USS PUEBLO. Other categories of material noted in the memorandum will be held by NSA for utilization or dissemination as may be later decided by NSA. Included in this latter material are target country supplements which will be provided to appropriate ADP Office Group Chiefs for further analytic use.

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3. This memorandum was prepared by D12 in order to transmit the final assessment report to the Board. An earlier report on the subject was forwarded to USIB on 13 May 1968 (NSA Serial: N0668) and released to USIB Principals as USIB-S-13.5/44, 14 May 1968.

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4. This memorandum has been coordinated with and concurred in by [redacted] Exec. P04, Chief of the NSA PUEBLO debriefing team and shown to LCDR Koczak D11.

5. [redacted] advises that the damage assessment report has been concurred in on the basis of pertinent cryptologic and cryptographic interest and responsibility as follows:

- A Group Mr. Levenson
- B Group Mr. Zallow
- ADC Mr. Barlow
- ADP Gen. Morrison
- D/DIR Dr. Tordella

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