

### NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755

Serial: N 0668 13 May 1968

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

No Code

TOP SECRET TRINE/NOFORN LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

MEMORANDUM FOR USIB PRINCIPALS

SUBJECT: Assessment of the Loss of the USS PUEBLO (C)

- 1. This report is being provided to the Members of USIB for their information.
- 2. Attached is an impact assessment statement concerning the capture of the USS PUEBLO (AGER-2) on 23 January 1968 and the loss which may result from the compromise of an unknown amount of SIGINT technical support material, communications equipment and SIGINT collection equipment carried aboard the vessel.
- In NSA's judgment, based on "worst case circumstance", which is normally part of the evaluative procedures surrounding cryptographic and COMINT compromises, the overall loss and long term effect on the U.S. SIGINT effort is assessed to be very severe. If the technology and doctrine which may have been made available through the capture of the PUEBLO were to be applied to Soviet, KORCOM and CHICOM communications there is little doubt that the U.S. would suffer a serious and costly loss of intelligence. The recent revelation by the North Koreans that they possess TOP SECRET codeword, SECRET codeword and Handle Via COMINT Channels documents dramatically points up the possible severity of our loss. With regard to this latter development, NSA has recently received sufficiently legible copies of some of the photographs taken by the North Koreans of these codeword documents. These photographs show a display of serialized NSA product, several loose pages and a number of sheets

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

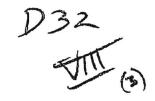
Approved for release by NSA on 01-13-2014, Transparency Case# 63391

SECRET TRINE



## **TOP SECRET**

#### NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755



Serial: N 0865 24 June 1968

#### TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, USIB SUBJECT: PUEBLO Report (U)

- 1. Reference is made to USIB-D-13.5/45, dated
  10 June 1968, Subject: Assessment of the Loss of the
  USS PUEBLO.
- 2. Forwarded herewith are copies of a revised page 2 of the subject report as agreed at the 511th USIB Meeting, 6 June 1968.

Chief, Boards and Estimates Division

Executive Office of the Director

Incl:

a/s (22 copies)

APPENDED DOCUMENTS CONTAIN
CODEWORD MATERIAL

DOWNGRADE TO CONFIDENTIAL GROUP-1
UPON REMOVAL OF INCLOSURES

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TOP SECRET









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PO4/5348/68

# TO SECRET TRIP

TOP SECRET TRINE/NOFORN IMITED DISTRIBUTION

Serial: NO668

of paper containing Specific Intelligence Collection
Requirements (SICRs). The serialized product could not
be identified because document arrangement covered the
serial numbers. The loose pages were entitled: "Chinese
Communist and "The North
Vietnamese Air Force". These pages are believed to be
updating sheets from the CINCPACFLT Special Intelligence
Manual; how many pages of that three inch thick manual
were seized, is of course unknown. The SICRs which can
be identified were entitled: North Korea",
"North Korean , "Soviet Missile Operations, (one
word obscured), Launches and Related Activities",
"CHICOM Communications Systems (C)",
"Chinese Communist Activity". The outline of most
of the SICRs identified contained two main categories of
information: first, the nature of the desired information
on the subject mentioned in the title; and second, a summary
of the information available on the subject. These summaries
were a compendium of data from several sources
but in some cases they were very brief. In addition
to revelations of specific areas of interest, the method of
generating and addressing SICRs affords a clear insight into
the relationships and capabilities of various member agencies
of the U.S. Intelligence Community.
4. There were 30 Navy Security Group personnel on
board the ship (29 enlisted and 1 officer), all of whom
were cleared and indoctrinated for Category III COMINT.
The Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, Operations
Officer and Communications Officer were also COMINT-
indoctrinated. Several of the NSG personnel were also
knowledgeable in various compartmented problem areas. For
example, 4 personnel held clearances,
one of whom also held a clearance, and 3 held
SPO TALENT/KEYHOLE clearances. In general it can be
stated that the NSG personnel on the PUEBLO were fully
qualified signals intelligence technicians and that their
past assignments have covered a wide range of geographic
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Serial: N 0865

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Reading File M501

D12 (5) S13

ADN GC

ADP IG

ADPM A/SSO

ADC B/SSO

D32 G/SSO

M/R: Self-explanatory.

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