

BRIEFING OF DEPUTY SECRETARY  
OF DEFENSE.

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

(13 Feb 69)  
D-10430/19

VIII

19

~~SECRET~~

Honorable David Packard  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Mr. Packard:

Since the issue of the USS PUEBLO is one of the most important and demanding with which you are now faced, I feel that it is highly desirable that you be apprised of my actions to date in connection with the assessment of the damage to the United States intelligence and communications security efforts caused by the loss of the ship, its materials, and equipment, and by the interrogation of the crew members during their internment by the North Koreans. The role of NSA in this damage assessment is, of course, limited to the cryptologic losses.

NSA, along with representatives of the Navy and other organizations, participated in a coordinated intelligence debriefing operation in San Diego. During the process, sufficient information was collected to form a comprehensive data base which now supports a detailed damage assessment presently being accomplished in Washington. In accordance with the responsibilities of the Director, NSA, my report will be forwarded to the United States Intelligence Board (USIB) and the United States Communications Security Board and, of course, to the Secretary of Defense; I anticipate that most of the work could be completed toward the middle of March.

As to the actual assessment to date, the damage is most serious, even though the total impact may not be felt for some time to come. It would now appear that the final report will approach the "worst case circumstance" as described in the initial impact assessment report which I provided for the information of the USIB in May of last year.

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~

**SECRET**

A copy of that report is attached for your information. There is no doubt that the capture of Special Intelligence materials and equipment would naturally aid the North Koreans as well as other Communist countries. I should note, however, that the capture of the PUEBLO with or without the cryptographic equipment would not affect the vulnerability of present or future U. S. communications. In accordance with United States and United Kingdom SIGINT and COMSEC agreements, I have provided an interim notification and preliminary assessment of the loss of the PUEBLO to British, Canadian and Australian SIGINT authorities. Finally, you should be aware that I have briefed both the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the Senate and House Armed Services Committees on the SIGINT and COMSEC support provided to the PUEBLO and the probable damage to the U. S. cryptologic effort.

I stand ready to assist you in any way possible relative to the impact of the PUEBLO incident on overall United States cryptologic operations.

Faithfully yours,

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

Incl:  
a/s

**HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY**