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Serial: D6/43/69

7 July 1969

**MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CHARLES HAVENS, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**

1. I am writing to you regarding the report submitted to the House Armed Services Committee by the Special Subcommittee on the USS PUEBLO, a copy of which report this Agency received from your office for review on Thursday, 3 July 1969.

2. NSA representatives met with Captain Lazenby of the Public Affairs Office on Saturday, 5 July, and identified all of the items which, in the interest of national security - specifically from the cryptologic viewpoint, require deletion prior to general publication of the report by the full Committee. I am advised that all of our suggested security deletions were noted by Captain Lazenby. I have every confidence that it will be recommended by the Department that they be excised from the text of the report.

3. In addition to the required security deletions, however, there remain several matters of fact which I would like to call to your attention, and which I feel require correction in the final text. These several items are identified in the inclosure to this letter. The list of items inclosed omits any reference to the comments appearing on page A4 of the Subcommittee Report regarding the duplication of efforts between NSA and DIA and lack of coordination between these two agencies. I would not want to convey the impression that by our omission of these points we concur in their factual accuracy, for indeed, we do not; the NSA mission, as you are aware, is quite unique and distinct within the Intelligence Community and we have coordination in depth with DIA. But these comments are clearly labeled in the report as the opinion of the Subcommittee and, although we regret they have formed that opinion, we do not feel that their views are subject to mere editorial comment.

4. Your efforts to correct the specific items noted in the inclosure would be greatly appreciated. In the alternative, with the approval of the Secretary, we could clarify these factual inaccuracies for the Committee informally.

Pueblo
[Signature] Roy R. BannerROY R. BANNER
General CounselIncl:
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NSA-SUGGESTED FACTUAL AMENDATIONS

1. Page A4, line 8, change to read, following the date cited: "which was provided to assist in the evaluation of the requirement for ship protective measures." The above is the precise language of the message and more accurately states the purpose of the message.

2. Page A4, line 22, delete the word "directly." NSA, by directive, reports to the Secretary of Defense through the DDR&E, and as an element of the Department of Defense is subject to the direction of the Assistant Secretaries of Defense in their assigned areas of responsibility.

3. Page A8, line 19, delete, or at least put in quotes, the word "warning." The NSA message in point was not a message of warning, per se.

The message was sent to aid in the estimate of risk on the proposed PUEBLO mission. The NSA message summarized previously reported past indications of hostile attitude on the part of the North Koreans regarding peripheral reconnaissance activities, including aggressive ship activities within the 12 mile limit. It was stated that the message was not intended to reflect adversely upon the PUEBLO deployment proposal but was provided to aid in evaluating the requirement for ship protective measures for the USS PUEBLO.

It is recommended, moreover, that the text of the above paragraph be substituted for the report text following the date cited on line 20 of page A8.

4. Page 21, lines 26 and 27, change to read: "Reconnaissance Center is composed of officers from each of the four Services and liaison officers from the National Security Agency, the Department . . ." The NSA liaison officer to the JRC/JCS is not a member of the staff, per se.

5. Page 42, line 22, delete the word "prohibited" and insert in its place the phrase "waived for ship safety reasons." This more accurately reflects the provisions of KAG-1D regarding incendiary destruct devices aboard ship. On line 24, change the word "prohibition" to "exception."

6. Page 42, line 25, insert, following the date cited, the phrase, "but due to action initiated in late 1967." NSA action to modify this exception, which had been requested by the Navy, had begun prior to the PUEBLO incident, even though the acceptance by all concerned agencies of the final change was no doubt accelerated by the PUEBLO incident.

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7. Page 52, last line, and first five lines on page 53. In line with item number 2 above, it is recommended that these lines be changed to read as follows in order to more factually represent the message:
"originated in the National Security Agency which provided a summary of previously published information relating to the risk assessment assigned the USS PUEBLO mission."

"This message recited a history of North Korean incidents regarding peripheral reconnaissance activities, in order to aid in the JCS appraisal of the risk assessment assigned by CINCPAC to the proposed PUEBLO mission, and to aid in the evaluation of the requirement for ship protective measures."

8. Page 106, line 16, insert the word "fleet" as the eighth word on that line in order to clarify the meaning of the word "normal."

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cc: Reading File

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D6

ADM: File

ADP

ALP

ALN

M/R: On Thursday afternoon, 3 July, NSA received a copy of the 142 page long Pike Subcommittee Report on the USS PUEBLO from Mr. Charles Havens, Special Assistant to Deputy Secretary Packard. The Pike Subcommittee Report had been forwarded to the Secretary of Defense on 1 July by the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee by a letter which requested DoD review for the purpose of eliminating those classified items which, if made public, would seriously jeopardize the national security interests of the United States, as well as for advice as to whether the report contained any serious factual errors. The DoD report back to the Committee was requested not later than 10 July.

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The Agency was advised by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs that a meeting would be held in the Pentagon on Saturday morning, 5 July, to review the security aspects of the report. Representatives of D6 [] and of P04 [] and Mr. Snow reviewed the report in detail through late on Thursday night and identified all those sections of the report which required deletion for security reasons from the NSA point of view. Their notes were incorporated with those notes made early in the day by D6 [] regarding factual changes desired in the report, and essentially formed a list of NSA's overall desired changes. On Saturday morning, 5 July, [] met with Captain Lazenby of the Public Affairs Office and went over each of the NSA security changes, all of which were noted by Captain Lazenby, in addition to other security changes suggested by the Navy and the JCS. These NSA changes appear in the report on pages A3, A13, A14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 43, 44, 53, 54, 66 and 68, chronologies on 74, 75, 77, 79, 79A and 79B, pages 97, 107, 109, 110, 111 and 112. The NSA representatives at this meeting were advised that the Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense was convening a meeting early Monday morning to review the security changes suggested by all DoD elements as well as to consider those factual changes which were necessary in the report. NSA representatives were invited to participate in that meeting.

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In order to avoid any particular pressures which might develop at the Monday, 7 July, meeting, upon the recommendation of the General Counsel, NSA, it was the position of the Director that factual changes in the report should be the subject of a letter from NSA to the Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary. Thus it was felt that the NSA desired changes would be a matter of record irrespective of any final decision on the part of the Department. The factual changes are the subject of the present letter, which it is intended shall be dispatched by special courier to the Pentagon this morning.

It is noted that the final paragraph to this letter offers the Department the option of allowing NSA separately to discuss these points with the committee council. It is felt that this would provide NSA a better chance at achieving the desired amendments rather than through incorporation into any massive set of changes which might be proposed by the Department or which, on the other hand, might be precluded entirely by any departmental overall acceptance of the factual aspects of the report.

 D6, 4177s, 7 July 69, bj/ph

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