

23-25 Jan 68
⑤ Early reactions
in DirNSA's office

THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 1968

1745 Director talked to both Mr. Helms and Bromley Smith regarding the release of SIGINT information by Mr. Goulding earlier in the afternoon (4 p.m.). Both Mr. Helms and Mr. Smith informed the Director that they had not seen the text for approval prior to release.

The Director was also informed (by Hughes through Dr. Tordella) that State Department was preparing a comprehensive statement for Ambassador Goldberg to use in the Security Council debate to include SIGINT. General Carter alerted Mr. Helms and Mr. Smith, both of whom knew nothing.

1800 After learning more from Mr. Hughes about the UN material being prepared, the Director informed Bromley Smith, who brought up the subject of the chronology of events regarding the Pueblo prepared by the White House Situation Room. Mr. Rostow, unhappy due to non-availability of a comprehensive report of the incident, has tasked Mr. Nitze to do the job. Mr. Nitze assigned it to ASD (ISA). [redacted] (Far East Desk) is charged with compiling the data with the assistance of the JCS/JRC, Navy, DIA and the elements. The Director decided to be cooperative with the Group if asked to participate. Messrs. Zaslow and [redacted] were selected as representatives if a request were to be received during the night.

(b) (6)
OGA

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

FRIDAY 26 January

0930 The Director was informed that [redacted] had stated that the Study Group had all the information they needed and would only ask NSA for participation if necessary. It did not prove necessary.

(b) (6)
OGA

SATURDAY 27 January

1130 CIA requested a copy of chart used in New York sent to Tokyo for use by Ambassador Johnson in briefing Japanese Government. B Group provided a chart to the Command Center, which forwarded it to CIA.

24 JANUARY 1968 WEDNESDAY

- 0900 Gen Carter issued the word of Isaiah to those present at the Command Briefing. Separate M/R attached.
- 1100 McCafferty informs of kitchen cabinet meeting in Situation Room on Pueblo incident. In attendance were Rostow, Wheeler, Helms, Katzenbach. The NSC will not discuss the Pueblo, only Cyprus.
- 1345 Gen Carter talks with Tom Hughes who relates a report that Helms, Rostow, and Rusk have agreed to public release of SI on incident.
- 1400 JCS meeting scheduled for 1600. Dr. Tordella to attend.
- 1430 Livingstone/JRC provided with list of Crypto gear and briefing of destruction procedures for Gen Steakley.
- 1440 General Carter received a call from Gen Steakley/JRC, who indicated that one of several proposals being considered was the deployment of the Banner with appropriate escort to the same area as the Pueblo. Gen Carter stated that this should pose no problem as far as NSA was concerned; even though the SIGINT configuration was a bit different. He also stated that the type of escort to be provided was a JCS problem and not within his purview.
- 1530 Bromley Smith notified the Director that there was some difference in times for certain events surrounding the Pueblo/PT boat encounter and that consideration was being given to releasing some of this SIGINT information.

24 January 1968

General Carter stated that NSA had an excellent chart of the encounter with as accurate a time listing available. Subsequently, General Carter directed that the information be passed to Mr. Smith. The data was provided (along with a narrative prepared by B Group) to the White House at approximately 1630.

(b) (6)
OGA

1645

[redacted] (Mil Asst to Nitze) called General Carter to request answers to two questions posed by Messrs. McNamara and Nitze prior to their trip to State. Questions were:

What was method of transmission between PT boats and shore?

What was source of our intercept? Answers were provided by General Carter. Method was ship/shore voice [redacted]

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

[redacted] General Carter asked P2 to verify and inform NMCC to pass confirmation to [redacted].

(b) (6)
OGA

1730

Although some problem arose in that [redacted] was misinformed by NMCC as to confirmation of data, information as originally provided to him by General Carter was correct. General Carter called Mr. Helms and also informed him that all radar-tracking data intercepted indicated the Pueblo well outside the 12 NM limit.

23 January 1968 *Tuesday*

1035 Livingstone/JRC states that State has requested ADP-541.
Request denied.

*DIRECT to
JCS/SAC
292228Z 69*

1045 Gen Carter completes briefing of Pat Coyne. Notes Navy responsibility with only peripheral involvement of NSA.

Gen Carter states he has also briefed ADM Taylor, Bromley Smith, Gen Carroll.

1050 Dr. Tordella briefs Pat Coyne on Crypto-gear aboard Pueblo.

1100 Gen Carroll, through DIA L/O, requests ADP-541.

1105 Gen Carter instructs that no historical will be released to outside Agency. General Steakley agrees with this decision.

1106

[Redacted]

Non - Responsive

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

1245

[Redacted] relays questions from [Redacted] Chief Special Activities, ACSI.

(b)(6)
OGA

1. Mission
2. Why was it there
3. What gear was compromised
4. What other materials were compromised
5. What types of positions.

Answered per General Carter's instructions.

1430

McManis contacts McCafferty. He has heard nothing from either JCS or White House luncheon. Will pursue.

1445 Answer Jerry Burke questions for George Carroll, Mr. Veep's boy.

Juanita Moody brief [redacted] on SAB (DRNAVSB CGRO INST).

(b) (6)
OGA

1530 General Carter spoke with Pay Coyne, who stated that he was getting all the information he needed from the White House situation room. Mr. Coyne then asked if NSA had any additional information on the incident including any contemplated action on the part of the U.S. Gen Carter said that he had not been apprised of any action to be taken. He assumed that discussions were taking place and stated that he was not about to get involved in the White House/State decisions. (The Director had previously stated to Mr. Coyne that since the ship was operating in a direct support mode, no controls were exercised by NSA - it was a JCS/JRC matter with only peripheral involvement by NSA in providing technical support).

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

1645 [redacted] indicated that answers had been provided by [redacted] to questions posed by Gen Brown of DIA concerning ACRP collection procedures. BII will maintain a round-the-clock watch.

(b) (6)
OGA

1645 Gen Morrison talks with Livingstone JRC concerning briefing for Amb Goldberg. Gen Morrison called ADM Jackson, Goldberg's Senior Mil Advisor in N.Y. and briefed him on impact.

- a. Collection Gear
- b. Crypto Gear
- c. SIGINTers

23 January 1968

PUEBLO INCIDENT

0830 hrs. Contacted Phil Goulding, ASD(PA) and learned that he, Dan Henkin (D/ASD(PA)) and Lt Col Bruce Brown, USAF (Exec. to ASD(PA)) had collectively prepared during the early morning hours a recommended press release which was approved by the White House, State Department and Sec/Def.

0900 hrs. Mr. Goulding had his secretary dictate the approved release to D1. Copies typed by D11 and provided to NSA Directorate.

0930 hrs. Capt O'Brien, OASD(PA) called and offered to dictate DOD press release which was now on the wire services. Informed Capt O'Brien that Mr. Goulding had earlier provided this.

0945 hrs. [redacted] reporter for St. Louis Post Dispatch, telephoned and asked if "the Pueblo incident was like last summer's Liberty incident". I replied that I heard that CBS radio announced at 8 a.m. the capture of the Pueblo near North Korea. He asked if there were any NSA involvement and I acknowledged that I understood that there was a DoD press release which spoke of a Navy ship and I suggested he call Mr. Goulding's office or Navy Information. [redacted] replied that he called Navy and felt that he hadn't gotten much information. I reminded him that since I understood that there was a press release and the press release was out of DoD, he should call Mr. Goulding.

(b) (6)

1000 hrs. Apprised Mr. Goulding's secretary that [redacted] might call and she replied that he had, and that she had given Mr. Goulding his questions.

23 January 1968

PUEBLO INCIDENT

1005 hrs. Capt Lumpkin, USN, Deputy CHINFO, called and asked if Pueblo might be like the Liberty. While I understood that Capt Lumpkin had our clearance, I knew that we were talking on an outside and unsecure line and circumlocuted, acknowledging only that I understood that a press release had been ^{personally} received by Mr. Goulding and that the Pueblo was a Navy ship. He admitted knowledge of the press release but felt I might provide him and Goulding with some background for their own personal guidance. He also asked if I might furnish him a photo of the Pueblo. I answered that I would call him back and/or possibly see him.

1015 hrs. I reported the above to Lt Cdr Koczak and Mr. Gerry Burke with recommendation that if we did anything it should be through Mr. Goulding personally. Cdr Koczak volunteered that the incident was Navy and he felt that Capt Lumpkin should be referred to Navy Security Group. Mr. Burke agreed that, for the present, I should refer Capt Lumpkin to the Navy Security Group.

1050 hrs. A check with Lt Cdr Koczak emphasized that the Director's thinking was that the Pueblo incident was a Navy incident all the way and that presently both Mr. Goulding and Capt Lumpkin should be receiving information and guidance from Sec Nav.

1115 hrs. Received call from [redacted] Chief, D14, relaying information from Mr. [redacted] L21, that the latter's secretary had heard on the radio that the Pueblo was associated with NSA.

1120 hrs. Checked with Mrs. [redacted] Secretary to Mr. [redacted] and learned that enroute from NSA

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

23 January 1968

PUEBLO INCIDENT

Training School between 1000 and 1015 she tuned into WBAL radio and heard that an American ship had been captured by North Koreans. Announcement also carried some reference to "super secret National Security Agency." She doesn't recall exact details of the reference but she does remember that WBAL referred to the ship as a "spy ship".

1215 hrs. Telephoned Capt Lumpkin, USN, and informed him that he should check with JRC at the Pentagon for background guidance. He said he only wanted to insure that NSA was not involved. I replied that I understood that the entire incident was a Navy one.

1700 hrs. No further inquiries or contacts regarding Pueblo incident.

