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Approved for Release by NSA on 09-14-2012, FOIA Case #40722

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DATE 10/27/2011 BY 60322 UCBAW

NORTH KOREAN CAPTURE OF U.S.S. PUEBLO

NORTH KOREAN TRACKING OF THE U.S.S. PUEBLO AT 0540Z.

THE TIME THE VESSEL WAS CAPTURED BY NORTH KOREAN NAVY (NKN)

SUBMARINE CHASER 35 AND TWO AUXILIARY CRAFT, PLACED THE

U.S. VESSEL AT 39-23N 123-02E, APPROXIMATELY 23 NM FROM

SHORE. THE INITIAL SIGINT INDICATION OF THE ACTIVITY OC-

CURRED ON NKN SHIP-TO-SHIP AND SHIP-TO-SHORE COMMUNICA-

TIONS FROM 0310 TO 0323Z WHICH INDICATED THAT NKN SUBMARINE

CHASER 34 AND NKN TORPEDO BOAT 11 WERE APPROACHING A "300-

TOM AMERICAN VESSEL...WHICH IS USED FO RADAR OPERATIONS

AND WHICH IS NOT ARMED." BETWEEN 0405 AND 0408Z, SUB-

MARINE CHASER 34 REPORTED THAT SHE WAS GOING TO USE A

SMALL BOAT AND GO ABOARD THE AMERICAN VESSEL, "SILENCE

THE VESSEL'S COMMUNICATIONS." AND TOW THE VESSEL INTO

40°NSAN (39-10N 127-26E).

SUBMARINE CHASER 34, BETWEEN 0422 AND 0450Z, INSTRUCTED

ALL NKN TORPEDO BOATS TO GET AWAY FROM THE AREA WHERE THE

U.S. VESSEL WAS LOCATED BECAUSE SUBMARINE CHASER 35 WAS

POINT TO FIRE ON THE U.S. VESSEL. THE PUEBLO REPORTED THAT

IT HAD BEEN ORDERED TO LEAVE TO OR BE FIRED ON; AT 0435Z

WOUNDED, ONE CRITICALLY. THE VESSEL WAS ACTUALLY BOARDED
AT 0445Z.

SHORTLY AFTER SUBMARINE CHASER 35 REPORTED THAT IT HAD
HALTED THE ESCAPE OF THE U.S. VESSEL, NKN PATROL BOAT 11
WAS INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE FOR AIR COMBAT. IN ADDITION TO
SUBMARINE CHASER 34 AND PATROL BOAT 11, SUBMARINE CHASER 35,
TORPEDO BOAT 604 AND PATROL BOATS 12, 13, AND POSSIBLY 21
WERE NOTED IN COMMUNICATIONS IN THE AREA.

DURING THE PERIOD 0450 TO 0510Z, NKN COMMUNICATIONS
DISCLOSED THAT NKN TORPEDO BOATS WERE ORDERED TO DETERMINE
WHETHER THE U.S. PERSONNEL WERE THROWING ANYTHING INTO THE
WATER. SUBMARINE CHASER 35 REPORTED BETWEEN 0518 AND
0528Z THAT U.S. PERSONNEL ABOARD THE U.S. VESSEL WERE
THROWING ARTICLES INTO THE WATER AND DESTROYING ARTICLES
WITH FIRE.

AT LEAST EIGHT NORTH KOREAN AIR FORCE (NKAFC) 2D
FIGHTER DIVISION MIGS FLEW DEFENSIVE PATROLS BETWEEN
0406 AND 0601Z OVER THE AREA WHERE THE U.S.S. PUEBLO
WAS CAPTURED.

3 FOUR NKAFC AIR TRANSPORT BATTALION (ATB) PROBABLE

LI-2 (CAB) AIRCRAFT FLEW FROM TAECH'ON AIRFIELD

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