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TO OSCAR/TANGO NOVEMBER

WHITE HOUSE

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

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NSA REP STRIKE

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SPOT REPORT FOLLOW-UP NUMBER THREE TO

NSA SPOT REPORT 3/0/KCJ/R02-68,

DTG: 231059Z

DIST: OSCAR/TANGO NOVEMBER

PLUS: WHITE HOUSE, [redacted]

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

COMNAVFORJAPAN, NSA REP STRIKE,

DIRNAVSECGRU, SSO USEUCOM, NSAUER ISS

Approved for Release by NSA on 06-26-2012, FOIA Case # 40722

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SIGINT REFLECTION OF NORTH KOREAN CAPTURE OF USS PUEBLO

NORTH KOREAN NAVY (NKN) COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING NKN PATROL CRAFT POSITIONS REPORTS DURING THE TIME THAT THE USS PUEBLO WAS CAPTURED BY THESE CRAFT INDICATE THAT THE PUEBLO WAS APPROXIMATELY 23 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE NORTH KOREAN COAST (39-23N 128-02E) AT THE TIME THAT IT WAS CAPTURED.

POSITION REPORTS PASSED BY SUBMARINE CHASER NUMBER 35 (IDENTIFIED BY THE PUEBLO AS THE NKN VESSEL WHICH FIRED ON HER) WERE AS FOLLOWS:

0155Z 39-01N 128-11E

0227Z 39-11N 127-54E

0240Z 39-15N 128-00E

0300Z 39-25N 127-56E

0450Z 39-26N 128-02E

AVAIABLE POSITION REPORTS WHICH WERE PASSED BY THE TORPEDO BOATS INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT WERE AS FOLLOWS:

0350Z 39-20N 127-41E

0400Z 39-21N 127-53E

0525Z 39-19N 127-57E

0530Z 39-23N 127-50E

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BASED ON ALL AVAILABLE SIGINT INFORMATION THE PUEBLO WAS FIRST APPROACHED BY NKN VESSELS BETWEEN 230310Z-0323Z, WHEN POSITION REPORTS INDICATE THE NKN PATROL CRAFT WERE APPROXIMATELY 13NM AWAY FROM THE NEAREST NORTH KOREAN LAND MASS. BETWEEN 230425Z AND 0433Z SUBMARINE CHASER 35 WAS IN PROCESS OF FIRING ON THE PUEBLO. AT 0450Z SUBMARINE CHASER 35 PASSED A POSITION OF 39-26N 128-02E (APPROXIMATELY 23 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE NEAREST NORTH KOREAN LAND MASS). IT WAS NOT UNTIL 0540Z THAT THE FIRST NKN RADAR TRACKING MESSAGE WAS PASSED ON THE PUEBLO PLACING HER AT 39-13N 123-35E WHEN THE SUBMARINE CHASER AND THE PATROL CRAFT WERE AT 39-21E 123-31E. THE TRACKS ON BOTH VESSELS MERGED AT AN APPROXIMATE POSITION OF 39-13N 127-59E AT 0613Z. ALL NKN RADAR TRACKING REPORTS CEASED AT 0800Z.

WHILE NKN RADAR TRACKING REPORTS MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY ACCURATE, THE POSITION REPORTS PASSED BY THE SUBMARINE CHASER AND THE PATROL CRAFT PLACE THE PUEBLO AT LEAST 23NM FROM THE COAST WHEN SHE WAS ATTACKED AND BOARDED.

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