INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION CABLE
1968-01-27

COUNTRY: SOUTH KOREA/NORTH KOREA

DATE: 27 JANUARY 1968

SIT: OPINIONS OF TWO FORMER NORTH KOREANS ON THE
PUEBLO INCIDENT

SOURCE: NSR, NSE HIST "PUEBLO CRISIS
1968, VOL 12, CIA DOCS, C17"
BOX 32
IS CAMP RELEASE

WHY NKSendid it

COPY
INSTALLATION
COPY
CHRON

CONFIDENTIAL

SANITIZED
E.O. 12358, Sec. 3.6
NLI/ARC 81-81 Appeal
By: NARA, Date: 8/10/02

PRESERVATION COPY
INCIDENT

1. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PUEBLO INCIDENT? HOW
WILL THE NORTH KOREANS EXPLOIT THE INCIDENT?

- THE CAPTURE OF THE PUEBLO WAS POLITICALLY
MOTIVATED AND WILL BE EXPLOITED FOR PROPAGANDA VALUE BOTH AT
HOME AND ABROAD. AT HOME, THE NORTH KOREAN REGIME WOULD HOPE
TO INCREASE TENSION AND INSPIRE THE PEOPLE'S ANTI-U.S. SENTIMENT.
IN INTERNATIONAL PROPAGANDA NORTH KOREA WILL CLAIM THE U.S. IS
THE AGGRESSOR WHO INVADED NORTH KOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND
PERPETRATED A HOSTILE ACT. NORTH KOREA ALSO MIGHT WANT TO
DEMONSTRATE THAT ITS MILITARY POWER IS SUFFICIENT TO CAPTURE
EVEN A U.S. VESSEL. NORTH KOREA EVENTUALLY WILL SEND THE
VESSEL AND CREW BACK SINCE NORTH KOREA FEARS U.S. ARMED
REPRISAL AND ADVERSE WORLD OPINION. THEY MAY TRY TO COMPEL
CREW MEMBERS TO ADMIT THE VESSEL INTRUDED INTO NORTH KOREAN
TERRITORIAL WATERS.

- NORTH KOREA CAPTURED THE PUEBLO TO PROPAGANDIZE
BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD THAT THE VESSEL PERPETRATED A HOSTILE
ACT IN VIOLATION OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. Thus, NORTH
KOREA WILL ATTEMPT TO AROUSE ANTI-U.S. SENTIMENT AMONG HER OWN PEOPLES
AND WILL ATTEMPT TO ARROUSE WORLD OPINION IN HER FAVOR. NORTH

3.4(2)(l)
PRESERVATION COPY
KOREA ALSO MAY ATTEMPT TO INDOCTRINATE THE VESSEL'S CREW TO ADMIT THE VESSEL INTRUDED INTO NORTH KOREA'S TERRITORIAL WATERS, AND THAT THE U.S. WAS THE AGGRESSOR.

2. WOULD THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE COORDINATED WITH THE USSR OR CHINESE COMMUNISTS PRIOR TO THE SEIZING OF THE VESSEL? HOW EFFECTIVE WOULD SOVIET INTERCESSION BE IN EFFECTING RETURN OF THE VESSEL AND CREW?

NEITHER COMMUNIST CHINA NOR THE USSR HAS ANY DIRECT INFLUENCE ON NORTH KOREA, SO IT IS UNLIKELY THERE WAS ANY COORDINATION PRIOR TO THE INCIDENT. THE DECISION TO CAPTURE THE VESSEL PROBABLY WAS MADE AT THE VERY TOP LEVEL, INCLUDING KIM IL-SONG. THE USSR MIGHT TRY TO PERSUADE NORTH KOREA THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO RETURN THE VESSEL AND CREW, BECAUSE THE USSR MAY FEAR THE EVENT COULD LEAD TO ANOTHER WAR.

NORTH KOREA MADE THE DECISION BY Herself. SINCE NORTH KOREA'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, SHE HAS NOT BEEN IN A POSITION TO CONSULT EITHER THE USSR OR COMMUNIST CHINA ON SUCH A DECISION. NORTH KOREA IS CONVINCED SHE WILL BE ABLE TO COPE WITH SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS, EVEN AN ATTACK BY THE U.S. THE NORTH KOREAN PEOPLE ARE IDEOLOGICALLY SOUND AND
THE NATION'S WAR PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE. IT IS VERY DOUBTFUL EITHER COMMUNIST CHINA OR THE USSR WOULD INTERCEDE.

3. THROUGH WHAT CHANNELS WOULD THE NORTH KOREANS MOST LIKELY BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE? WOULD THE NORTH KOREANS ACCEPT UNITED NATIONS INTERCESSION?

[ ] NORTH KOREA WILL WANT TO SETTLE THE ISSUE AT PANMUNJOM. SHE WILL NOT NEGOTIATE THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS BECAUSE NORTH KOREA DOES NOT ACCEPT THE AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF KIM IL-SONG FOR THE NORTH KOREAN SIDE.

[ ] NORTH KOREA WILL WANT TO SETTLE THE ISSUE AT PANMUNJOM. SHE MIGHT AGREE TO NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH A NEUTRAL NATION SUCH AS INDIA OR CAMBODIA. NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE DIRECTLY UNDER THE INSTRUCTION OF KIM IL-SONG. NORTH KOREA WILL NOT ACCEPT THE UNITED NATIONS AS A NEGOTIATOR.

4. FIELD-DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR USFK EUSA NAVFORK 6499/6C CINC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC (ALSO SENT USCN).

REPORT CLASS [CONFIDENTIAL]