



THE JOINT STAFF

~~SECRET~~

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

Admin: return in file
DIST
1cc Gen Brown
1cc ACB

Downgraded to CONFIDENTIAL

CHRON

DJSM-78-68
24 January 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Subject: PUEBLO Incident (C)

1. In response to the specific questions you posed regarding the PUEBLO incident, the following information is provided.

a. Did PUEBLO enter North Korean territorial waters?

According to official reports, the PUEBLO's closest point of approach to North Korean territory was 13 NM. This is 10 NM outside the US recognized 3 NM limit and a one mile buffer to the North Korean claimed limit of 12 NM. The ship reported its position as 39° 25.2' N, 127° 55.0' E when first harassed. This position is 17 NM from the mainland and correlates closely with intelligence received from a North Korean military source which indicates intercept at 18 NM from the nearest land mass. This same North Korean source reported the capture at 23 NM from the coast.

b. Were there ROK retaliatory raids across the DMZ? Artillery and mortar fire? ROK Naval action? CINCUNC reports having no information of any South Korean Naval or Air action on the east coast of North Korea or ground action along the DMZ within the preceding 48 hours prior to the PUEBLO incident. The only known South Korean military action during the time period involved intensified counter-infiltration operations commenced on 20 January 1968 which expanded after the attempted raid on the Presidential Mansion on the night of 21-22 January 1968.

c. Sequence of messages -- who received them and what actions were taken? See Enclosure A.

091 see (24 Jan 68)

8

me

has seen

DECLASSIFIED

NND 21032

Authority: J4116-2, 6/15/02

NARA

~~FBI~~

MDR RELEASE

See REVERSE

Downgraded to CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

GROUP - 3
Downgraded at 12 year intervals; not automatically declassified

*26-1 of Records, 1 Gen E Wheatley
Chmn, JCS, Box 20, TRB 439*

~~SECRET~~

~~Downgraded to CONFIDENTIAL~~

d. Was the PUEBLO fired upon -- men wounded?
According to intelligence received from North Korean military sources the PUEBLO was fired upon. This was further confirmed by Radio Pyongyang which announced that "our vessels conducted a counterfiring at those pirates who were arrogantly putting up resistance after deeply intruding into territorial waters of our fatherland, killed or wounded several US imperialist aggressors and captured over 80 of them." The PUEBLO reported four wounded personnel, but did not report being fired upon.

e. What were the rules of engagement applicable to PUEBLO? Applicable rules of engagement for the PUEBLO are shown at Enclosure B.



B. E. SPIVY
Lt General, USA
Director, Joint Staff

Attachments
a/s

*Copies of the attachments
have been provided to SecDef*

~~Downgraded to CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~