

Intelligence Information Cable

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PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES

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DIST 27 JANUARY 1968

COUNTRY: SOUTH KOREA/NORTH KOREA  
DOI: 27 JANUARY 1968  
SUBJECT: OPINIONS OF TWO FORMER NORTH KOREANS ON THE  
PUEBLO INCIDENT

(1)

ACC:

SOURCE:

NSF, NSC HISTS "PUEBLO CRISIS  
1968, VOL 12, CIA DOCS, [1]"  
BOX 32  
IS CAP RELEASE  
WHY NKS DID IT  
COPY  
SUB INVESTIGATION  
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SANITIZED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ/RAC 01-81 Appeal  
By S. NARA, Date 8/26/02

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IN 38681

PAGE 2 OF 4 PAGES

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

[REDACTED] 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 RETALIATION AND ADVERSE WORLD OPINION. THEY MAY TRY TO COMPEL CREW MEMBERS TO ADMIT THE VESSEL INTRUDED INTO NORTH KOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS.

3.4(b)(1)

[REDACTED] 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 AROUSE ANTI-U.S. SENTIMENT AMONG HER OWN PEOPLE AND WILL ATTEMPT TO AROUSE WORLD OPINION IN HER FAVOR. NORTH

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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 PUEBLO? 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.

3.4(b)(1)

[ ] 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

3.4(b)(1)

IN 38681

PAGE 4 OF 4 PAGES

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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 INTERSESSION?

[REDACTED] 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.

[REDACTED] 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/SG CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC (ALSO SENT USUN).

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