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*Disk made to*

*091 Korea - 24 June 68*

24 JUN 1968  
O 240855Z ZFF-3 ZYH

*Blue checks  
distributed  
1100*

SECDEF	✓
DEPSEC	✓
ISA	✓
CSA	✓
CSAF	✓
CNO	✓
CMC	✓
DJS	✓
J-3	✓
J-4	✓
J-5	✓
SACSA	✓
DIAAP	✓
WH	
STATE	
CIA	✓
SM	✓

FM GEN BONESTELL CINCUNC  
TO ADM SHARP CINCPAC  
INFO GEN WHEELER CJCS WASH DC  
ADM MOORER CNO WASH DC  
ADM HYLAND CINCPACFLT HAW  
VADM BRINGLE COMSEVENFLT YOKOSUKA JAPAN  
ZEM

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority *MR 21032*  
By *H/Rm/MTM* NARA Date *4/13/02*

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SUBJECT: ALLEGED SINKING OF "SPY BOAT" BY NORTH KOREANS, 22 JUNE 1968.  
REFERENCE: KRA 1886 INTEL

1. I HAVE THIS MORNING CALLED IN VICE ADMIRAL KIM YONG KWAN, ROK CNO, AND LATER CALLED ON ROK MND IN REFERENCE TO SUBJECT. I DESCRIBED TO BOTH IN CLEAR TERMS THE WRONG AND POTENTIALLY HIGHLY ADVERSE ASPECTS OF THE ROKN NAVAL RECON UNITS UNILATERAL ACTION, TAKEN WITHOUT US KNOWLEDGE, WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN REFERENCE MESSAGE. I TOLD THEM ACTION COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER PLANNED, TIMES OR EXECUTED TO ENABLE MAXIMUM EXPLOITABILITY TO THE NORTH KOREANS. IT COULD FURTHER COMMUNIST OBJECTIVE OF WORSENING ROK/US RELATIONSHIPS AND OUR MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE. IT PUT ME WITH MY OPERATIONAL CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY TO ENFORCE ARMISTICE IN AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION. IT MIGHT AFFECT RELEASE OF PUEBLO CREW AND IT FED

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COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA WHICH AIMS TO PROVE TO WORLD THAT UNC AND ROKS ARE THE PROVOCATIVE AGGRESSORS. THESE AND OTHER PERTINENT POINTS WERE COVERED IN SOME DETAIL.

2. ADM KIM WAS HIGHLY APOLOGETIC AND EMBARRASSED. HE STATED AND REITERATED THAT OPERATION WAS PURELY AND INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION EFFORT WITH NO RAIDING OR DESTRUCTION MISSION, BUT WAS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN TO ME WHY SUCH AN EFFORT NEEDED FIFTEEN ARMED MEN. CONVERSATION ENDED WITH HIS ASSURING ME THAT NO SUCH OPERATIONS WOULD BE PERFORMED IN FUTURE.

3. MND CHOI APPEARED MOST DISTRESSED AT OPERATION AND CLAIMED HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT. FROM MY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES IN DEALING WITH ROK'S ON THEIR UNILATERAL ACTIONS IN PAST I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE HIM. I RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE ADVERSE POTENTIALS OF ROK UNILATERAL ACTIONS AND THAT HE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT NONE OF THE SERVICES WOULD TAKE SUCH UNILATERAL ACTIONS. I HAVE HEARD THIS BEFORE FROM PERVIOUS MND AND ROK CHIEFS BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] RECENT ACTION HAS SHAKEN THE ROKS DEEPLY AND THAT THEREFORE HIS ASSURANCES MAY HOLD FOR THE TIME BEING. HE TOLD ME PRESIDENT PARK HAD CALLED FOR MEETING THIS AFTERNOON TO HAVE MND REPORT ON WHAT HAD HAPPENED, WHICH MIGHT BE INDICATION

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THAT BLUE HOUSE ALSO WAS UNAWARE OF PLANNING FOR THE OPERATION.

4. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY THEY DECIDED TO

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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