

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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ROUTINE  
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GROUP 1  
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~~SECRET~~

CITE [REDACTED]

DIST 5 OCTOBER 1968  
EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-2  
(C)

COUNTRY NORTH KOREA

DOI 12 SEPTEMBER 1968

06 00 19z Oct 68

SUBJECT REACTIONS OF PUEBLO CREW MEMBERS AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON 12 SEPTEMBER

ACQ

FIELD NO.

SOURCE

[REDACTED]

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs  
(C)

12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs 1. [REDACTED] COMMENT. [REDACTED] 2 OCTOBER 1968,

[REDACTED] THE JOURNALIST WHO ATTENDED THE 12 SEPTEMBER PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE PUEBLO CREW MEMBERS NOTED THAT COMMANDER BUCHER'S FACIAL EXPRESSION REFLECTED INSINCERITY WHEN MAKING CERTAIN REMARKS. THIS REPORT PROVIDES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE REACTIONS OF THE CREW MEMBERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE.)

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4 INSINCERE EACH TIME HE REPEATED THE REMARK "WE ARE GUILTY, WE WERE WRONG,

CLASSIFIED  
EO 12958, Sec 3.6  
BY RAC/OL-82  
sj [REDACTED] 30:02

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~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM~~  
(dissem controls)



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(classification) (dissem controls)

THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTH KOREA IS TO BE THANKED FOR TREATING US HUMANELY AND MUST JUDGE US GUILTY." WHEN OTHER CREW MEMBERS SAID THIS, THEY WERE ALWAYS GRAVE AND SERIOUS AND LOOKED STRAIGHT AHEAD. IN CONTRAST, BUCHER'S SPEECH AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE SEEMED SINCERE, NATURAL AND FROM THE HEART. WHEN THE CONFERENCE WAS OVER AND EVERYONE ROSE TO LEAVE, BUCHER SUDDENLY STOOD ON HIS CHAIR AND SAID HE HAD SOMETHING TO ADD. BUCHER THEN MADE AN APPEAL TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. IN PARAPHRASE, BUCHER SAID: "I WOULD LIKE TO APPEAL TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO DO SOMETHING TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THESE YOUNG MEN. THERE ARE SOME AMONG US WHO ARE ONLY 19 AND 20 YEARS OLD. OTHERS ARE MARRIED MEN WITH FAMILIES. WE HAVE DONE OUR DUTY. I HOPE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL DO SOMETHING TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THESE MEN."

3. ONE YOUNG OFFICER WEARING GLASSES GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO SAY HIS PIECE AND SEEMED TO BE SPEAKING WITH MANY NUANCES. THE JOURNALIST RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS TRYING TO HINT THAT THE PUEBLO HAD BEEN SEIZED OUTSIDE OF NORTH KOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS. HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF TOTAL INDIFFERENCE TO HIS SURROUNDINGS. A FRENCH JOURNALIST REMARKED AFTER THE CONFERENCE, "THAT BOY SEEMED STRANGE. HE DIDN'T MEAN WHAT HE SAID."

4. WHEN MOST OF THE OTHER CREW MEMBERS SPOKE, THEY SEEMED TO BE ACTING OUT A ROLE AND PERFORMING WELL. THEY WERE GRAVE AND SERIOUS, AS IF SUFFERING

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THOSE OF  
UNDER A TERRIBLE BURDEN. THEIR MANNERISMS WERE UNLIKE AMERICANS WHOM THE  
JOURNALIST HAS KNOWN. THEY SAT UNUSUALLY STILL, WITH FEW OF THE PHYSICAL  
MOVEMENTS THAT WOULD BE NATURAL DURING A LONG CONFERENCE. THEY DID NOT REACT  
TO THE AUDIENCE. AS AN EXAMPLE, WHEN ONE YOUNG AMERICAN SAID HE WOULD JOIN  
THE CLERGY IF RELEASED, THE AUDIENCE LAUGHED, BUT OTHER AMERICANS DID NOT SHOW  
A FLICKER OF A SMILE. IN BRIEF, EACH AMERICAN SEEMED TO BE FOLLOWING A SCRIPT.  
THE JOURNALIST THOUGHT THE CONFERENCE MUST HAVE BEEN STAGE MANAGED BY THE  
NORTH KOREANS BECAUSE IT WAS TOO WELL DONE TO BE CONVINCING.

5. WHEN ONE OFFICER ANSWERING A QUESTION BEGAN TO REPEAT HIMSELF, COM-  
MANDER BUCHER TURNED QUICKLY TOWARD THE MAN AND MOTIONED TO HIM TO SIT DOWN  
WITH A SHARP WAVE OF HIS HAND. IT SEEMED BUCHER UTTERED A CURT COMMAND IN AN  
ANGRY MANNER. THE JOURNALIST, HOWEVER, COULD NOT RECALL WHAT THE OFFICER  
HAD BEEN SAYING WHEN BUCHER REACTED IN SUCH A MANNER.

6. THE JOURNALIST SAT APPROXIMATELY THREE AND ONE-HALF METERS FROM THE  
AMERICANS AND OPPOSITE THE FILIPINO CREW MEMBER. HE ALSO SHOOK HANDS WITH  
BUCHER AFTER THE CONFERENCE. BUCHER'S EYES WERE RED. HIS EXPRESSION WAS THAT  
OF A MAN WHO HAD NOT SLEPT. HIS COMPLEXION WAS NOT NOTICEABLY PALE, BUT DID  
NOT SEEM NORMAL. FIVE OR SIX OF THE OTHERS HAD RED EYES AND APPEARED AS IF

5 THEY HAD NOT SLEPT. THE PUEBLO CREW MEMBERS DID NOT HAVE THE APPEARANCE OF

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HAVING BEEN DRUGGED.

7. AFTER THE CONFERENCE, THE JOURNALIST OBSERVED FROM A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 100 METERS CREW MEMBERS MARCHING TO A BASKETBALL COURT. HE SAW THEM BEGIN TO PLAY BALL, AND THEY SEEMED NATURAL IN THEIR MOVEMENTS.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
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8. [REDACTED] DISSEM: CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF (ALSO SENT [REDACTED])

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