THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

2 August 1964

Mr. President:

1. Early this morning the USS Maddox was attacked by three DRV PT boats while on patrol approximately 30 miles off the North Vietnamese coast in the Gulf of Tonkin.

2. The Captain of the Maddox returned the fire with 5-inch guns and requested air support from the carrier Ticonderoga on station nearby in connection with reconnaissance flights in that area.

3. Ticonderoga jets arrived shortly and made strafing attacks on the PT boats resulting in one enemy boat dead in the water, two others damaged and turned tail for home.

4. The Maddox reports no personnel or material damages.

5. Messrs Rusk and McNamara have been informed of the incident and present plans are to release a press statement later today either from Washington or Saigon.

6. Additional details on the Maddox encounter will be available later today.