

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

Serial: D6/45/69

8 July 1969

~~SECRET SPOKE~~MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CHARLES HAVENS, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Report of the Special Subcommittee on the USS PUEBLO

1. The following information is provided pursuant to your question as to whether or not the release of information appearing on pages 53, 54, 74, 75, 77, 79 and 109 of the report by the Special Subcommittee on the USS PUEBLO would disclose cryptologic sources. A cryptologic source is considered to mean the transmissions whose exploitation produces intelligence information. Such a source is considered to be disclosed if, in fact, the information was derived from that source, and if that same information could not reasonably have been obtained from a different source.

2. The statements in paragraph 2 of page 53 concerning the observed sensitivity of the North Korean Air Force to surveillance reconnaissance flights do not disclose cryptologic sources. The statement regarding the assumption by the North Korean Air Force of the role of naval support would reveal the exploitation of North Korean tactical air and air surveillance communications.

3. The information reported in paragraph 3 on page 53 could have been obtained from Republic of Korea reports and would not disclose cryptologic sources.

4. The initial statement in paragraph 4 on page 54 would not disclose any cryptologic source; however, the second statement indicates the monitoring by U. S. cryptologic units of those North Korean communications which would disclose provocative or harassing activities.

5. The chronologies on pages 74, 75, 77 and 79 contain no information which would disclose cryptologic sources. This Agency considers, however, that before the chronologies of the USS PUEBLO's messages are released, they should be corrected to show the times when those messages which were retransmitted as CRITICs were received at the communications centers of the addressees. The chronologies now show the times when the messages were delivered to responsible officials at the organizations addressed and, therefore, do not reflect accurately the rapidity of transmission achieved by the CRITIC communications system. This Agency will provide replacements of these pages, containing clarifying information on the handling times of the five messages transmitted as CRITICs.

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6. All of the entries in the chronology on page 109 logged from 10:34 P.M. to 11:51 P.M. and the first event on page 110 logged at 0044 would disclose cryptologic sources, the communications of North Korean units containing results of surveillance of the North Korean aircraft. This is also true of the statements in the second and third of the paragraphs below the chronology on page 110 and in the third full paragraph on page 112, all of which are based upon entries on page 109.

~~Roy R. Banner~~ROY R. BANNER
General Counsel

(b) (1)
(b) (3)-50 USC 403
(b) (3)-18 USC 798
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

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cc: Reading File
D6 ~~SECRET~~
P04 (Mr. Snow)

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

M/R: Pages 53 and 54 of the Special Committee's report contain the text of DIRNSA's 29 December 1967 message pertaining to risk assessment. Pages 74, 75, 77, and 79 list transmissions and retransmissions of messages from the PUEBLO. A list of messages transmitted during the shoot-down of the EC-121 appears on pages 109 and 110 of the report. Mr. Havens requested that he be furnished the information in this memorandum for his determination concerning the releasability of the pages involved.

Mr. Richmond D. Snow of P04 participated in the drafting of this memorandum.

 4177s, 8 July 69, ph

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