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FINAL REPORT

OF THE

AD HOC WORKING GROUP

SIGINT REVIEW OF THE USS PUEBLO INCIDENT

(10-23 January 1968)

Prepared by PØL

(Date)

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I. BACKGROUND

1. An ad hoc Working Group was established by ADP in October 1968; its purpose was to study a draft document prepared by B11 (Korean Division), entitled, "SIGINT Review of the USS PUEBLO Incident (10-23 January 1968)"; then, following that study, to determine:

- a. that the analytic techniques used were both thorough and accurate;
- b. that the analytic conclusions reached were sound;
- c. whether the draft document required any further treatment before being put into final form.

2. The Working Group consisted of the following individuals:

[REDACTED]	P04, Chairman
LCDR Edward J. Koczak, Jr.,	USN, D1
[REDACTED]	D2
Mr. Dayl D. Groskery,	D32
[REDACTED]	M1
Mr. Willis B. Ryan,	S1
Mr. Richmond D. Snow,	P04
[REDACTED]	P04
Mr. John J. Monroe,	P1
[REDACTED]	G04

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3. The document in question had been prepared by a "PUEBLO Task Force", set up in February 1968 under [REDACTED] of B11. Initially, that was the group to which many questions were referred; later, when it became apparent that all SIGINT and collateral material covering the period 10-23 January had to be assembled and painstakingly re-analyzed, the PUEBLO Task Force did so.

4. ~~While~~ The draft document which the Working Group studied consists of 71 double-spaced pages, it ^{represents only} ~~represents~~ the narrative summary of events which took place during the dates indicated. The summary has, as Appendices, a mass

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of detail under such headings as: Mission Assignments, Index of Files, Analysts' Notes (Air, Navy and Army), and Lists of Materials and Reports During the Period. Those Appendices, in turn, were developed from the body of "raw material" for the period -- traffic, tapes, technical reports, product reports, collateral, and even accounts from the press media.

II. DISCUSSION

1. During the course of its deliberations, the Working Group ^{developed} ~~surfaced~~ the following significant points:
 - a. Relationship to the "Price Report": The document under study covers the period from 10 January 1968 (when the PUEBLO sailed from Sasebo, Japan to commence Operation PINKROOT) to 23 January 1968 (when it was captured by the North Koreans). From a chronological point of view, it thus represents "Volume I" of what may become the official NSA position statement on the incident. The Price Report covers the period 23 January - 12 February 1968; thus, it represents "Volume II". At such time as the crew of the PUEBLO is repatriated and given an Intelligence Debrief, a Cryptologic/Cryptographic Damage Assessment must be made by NSA; that statement would very likely become Volume III.
 - b. Need for "one final look" by all concerned: The Working Group felt that it was most important to make the record of the incident as complete as possible. For an "in-house" last look, ADP addressed a memo to A, B, G, and K, asking that they review their material for the period 10-23 January for any possible reflections of preparations for the capture, or foreknowledge that the capture was to take place. For an "outside-the-house" look, the Working Group felt that a message should be sent to the three SCA's,

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DIA and CIA, advising them of this Agency's undertaking, and asking them to take one last look and advise NSA. That message is attached hereto as Inclosure 1.

Recognizing that this message will be reviewed by the problem group in the interest of the document to go back to Comptroller to be reviewed

c. Need for a more thorough treatment of ELINT information: It was felt that the draft document could be improved by treating the ELINT aspects of the study more thoroughly, mainly because relevant ELINT material was processed in several Production elements, rather than in one place. The Working Group felt that ADP should request that the Chief, Group B task a suitable person to coordinate this matter with those several elements, and then incorporate the results into the document. Such a memorandum has been prepared; it is attached hereto as Inclosure 2.

d. Need for better arrangement of "back-up" material: All the material used by the PUEBLO Task Force is maintained in two file cabinets in Ell's spaces. While it is categorized to some degree, it is still not in such a condition as to permit rapid and accurate retrieval of a back-up item to support a given analytic statement in the summary document. To put the material in that condition, the Working Group felt that a person skilled in library science should be made available to work with Ell personnel. Several people in the Central Information Center (P22) are known to have such skill; accordingly, the Working Group suggested that a memo be prepared, from ADP to the Chief, P2, requesting that such a person be made available to Ell for that purpose. That memorandum is attached hereto as Inclosure 3.

e. Need for "pull-out" charts: The Working Group, upon learning that Ell had prepared some charts reflecting the PUEBLO's positions at various times, strongly felt that such charts should be incorporated into the document, in "pull-out" fashion. This will be done, with the assistance of

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All these memos to inform Chief

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the D2 representative and Mr. Robertson of L24.

f. Need for editorial polish: The draft document, in its present form, requires a good deal of editorial treatment, to make it more readable by someone who may not have a SIGINT background. Abbreviations and technical terms, which are the daily tools of the trade to the analysts who prepared the document, should be spelled out and explained. An introductory section is needed. ~~The Group A representative volunteered to locate a qualified person in one of the A offices, to undertake the editorial task.~~

Who will do it?

III. CONCLUSIONS

1. The Working Group has concluded that the B11 document represents a thorough and professional job of analysis. Those responsible for it were careful to take into account all ~~available~~ ^{CONFIDENTIAL} SIGINT, collateral, and open-source information *available to B11.*

2. The document, after it has been improved as described above, should be able to take its place as part of the official NSA documentation on the PUEBLO Incident.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Working Group recommends that ADP sign and release Inclosures 1, 2, and 3 *not sent*

2. The Working Group further recommends that, once the document is put *in final form*, ADP direct the Chief, B to *put the report in final form* have it suitably published, and, *when that has been done* following publication, that ADP provide it to the Director, NSA, for such use as he may deem appropriate.

3. The Working Group finally recommends that, since it has accomplished its purpose, it be disestablished.

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Incl:
a/s

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PO4
Chairman

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