



Department of State

32-p
TELEGRAM

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ACTION SS 40

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines

By jc, NARA, Date 3-1-01

R 021230Z AUG 68
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2801

~~SECRET~~ BUCHAREST 2419

EXDIS

SUBJECT: USS PUEBLO

REF: STATE 223488 AND 230941

1. DURING CALL SEPT 2 ON ACTING FONMIN SANDRU I MENTIONED THAT WE WERE APPROACHING NUMBER OF FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBILITY THAT THOSE GOVERNMENTS, WHOM MIGHT BE SENDING OFFICIAL OR SEMI-OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTICIPATE IN 20 ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES OF KOREAN DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES REPUBLIC, MIGHT CONSIDER WHETHER THEY COULD EXERCISE GOOD OFFICES OR INFLUENCE EITHER OFFICIALLY OR PRIVATELY WITH KOREAN AUTHORITIES TO OBTAIN BETTER TREATMENT FOR MEMBERS OF CREW USS PUEBLO. OF COURSE RELEASE OF CREW WOULD BE MOST WELCOME BUT WE REALIZED DIFFICULTIES. DESPITE OUR MANY PROPOSALS IN TALKS WITH NORTH KOREANS AT PANMUMJON FOR SOLUTION PUEBLO AFFAIR, ONLY RESPONSE HAD BEEN NEGATIVE. REFERRING TO INABILITY OF ICRC REPRESENTATIVES TO GAIN ACCESS, I GAVE SANDRU INFO IN PARA 2 OF STATE 230941 AND ASKED IF ROMANIAN REPS WHO MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN SEPT 8 FESTIVITIES WOULD CONSIDER WHAT THEY MIGHT DO ON HUMANITARIAN BASIS TO PERSUADE KOREAN AUTHORITIES TO PERMIT CREW MEMBERS TO RECEIVE MAIL AND PACKAGES. WE LEFT IT ENTIRELY TO THEIR JUDGMENT WHAT MIGHT BE DONE AND HOW, IE OFFICIALLY OR IN PRIVATE TALKS BEHIND SCENES.

2. SANDRU REPLIED ROMANIA WOULD SEND OFFICIAL DELEGATION HEADED BY A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. IT WAS DIFFICULT QUESTION FOR ROMANIA TO INTERVENE IN THIS AFFAIR. HOWEVER HE WOULD TRANSMIT OUR REQUEST TO ROMANIAN TOP AUTHORITIES. DAVIS

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