

FBIS 77

BUCHER 'CONFESSION'

\ PYONGYANG KCNA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH 1702 GMT 24 JAN 63 B

(TEXT) PYONGYANG--LLOYD MARK BUCHER, CAPTAIN OF THE ARMED SPY SHIP OF THE U.S. IMPERIALIST AGGRESSOR ARMY WHICH WAS CAPTURED BY NAVAL VESSELS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY WHILE PERPETRATING HOSTILE ACTS AFTER ILLEGALLY INFILTRATING INTO THE COASTAL WATERS OF OUR SIDE ON 23 JANUARY, ADMITTED THE ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES THE U.S. IMPERIALIST AGGRESSORS COMMITTED.

HERE FOLLOWS HIS CONFESSION:

I AM COMMANDER LLOYD MARK BUCHER, CAPTAIN OF THE USS PUEBLO BELONGING TO THE PACIFIC FLEET U.S. NAVY, WHO WAS CAPTURED WHILE CARRYING OUT ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES AFTER INTRUDING DEEP INTO THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

MY SERIAL NUMBER IS 58215401. I WAS BORN IN POCATELLO, IDAHO, U.S.A. I AM 38 YEARS OLD.

THE CREW OF OUR USS PUEBLO ARE 83 IN ALL, INCLUDING FIVE OFFICERS BESIDES ME, 75 SERVICEMEN, AND TWO CIVILIANS.

MY SHIP HAD BEEN SENT TO SASEBO, JAPAN, TO EXECUTE ASSIGNMENTS GIVEN BY THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

ON 2 DECEMBER LAST, WE RECEIVED ASSIGNMENTS AT THE PORT OF SASEBO FROM REAR ADMIRAL FRANK A. JOHNSON, U.S. NAVY COMMANDER IN JAPAN, TO CONDUCT MILITARY ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES ON THE FAR EASTERN REGION OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THEN ON THE OFF-SHORE AREAS AND COASTAL AREAS OF THE DPRK.

MY SHIP HAD CONDUCTED ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETECTING THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

THROUGH SUCH ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES, MY SHIP DETECTED THE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS SET UP ALONG THE COASTS OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND SUBMITTED THE MATERIALS TO THE U.S. CIA.

(MORE)

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ONLY ADD 77 (BUCHZR 'CONFESSION')

XX U.S. CIA.

(TEXT) RECENTLY, WE WERE GIVEN ANOTHER IMPORTANT MISSION BY THE U.S. CIA, THAT IS, TO DETECT THE AREAS ALONG THE FWR EAST OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

THE U.S. CIA PROMISED ME THWT IF THIS TASK WOULD BE DONE SUCCESSFULLY, A LOT OF DOLLARS WOULD BE OFFERED TO ALL CREW MEMEBERS OF MY SHIP, PARTICULARLY, I MYSELF WOULD BE HONORED.

SOON AFTER THAT I REINFORCED THE ARMS AND EQUIPMENT OF THE SHIP AND MADE DETAILED PREPARATIONS FOR ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES.

THEN WE DISGUISED MY SHIP AS ONE ENGAGED IN RESEARCHES ON OCEANIC ELECTRONICS AND LEFT THE PORT OF SASEBO, JAPAN, AND CONDUCTED ESPIONAGE ACTS ALONG THE COAST OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA VIA THE GENERAL AREA OFF THE SOVIET MARITIME PROVINCE. WE PRETENDED (TO BE) CONDUCTING OBSERVATION OF OCEANIC CONDITIONS ON HIGH SEAS, ELECTRONICS, RESEARCH ON ELECTRIC WAVES, MAGNETIC CONDITIONS AND EXPLOITATION OF OCEANIC MATERIALS.

IT WAS ON 16 JANUARY 1968 THAT WE ENTERED THE COASTAL WATERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA VIA THE SOVIET MARITIME PROVINCE.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS WE HAD RECEIVED, MY SHIP WAS ON THE UTMOST ALERT AND OBSERVED AND ASCERTAINED THE DEPTH OF WATER, CURRENT, WATER TEMPERATURE, SEA BASIN, SALT CONDENSITY AND WATER TRANSPARENCY OF THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA WITH RADARS AND VARIOUS KINDS OF OBSERVATORY INSTRUMENTS IN A CLANDESTINE MANNER AT CHONGJIN, WONSAN, AND SEVERAL OTHER POINTS, AND DETECTED THE RADAR NETWORK, ACCOMMODATION CAPACITIES OF THE PORTS, THE NUMBER OF THE INCOMING AND OUTGOING VESSELS AND MANEUVERABILITY OF THE NAVAL VESSELS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY.

FURTHERMORE WE SPIED ON VARIOUS MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF INDUSTRIES AND THE DEPLOYMENT OF ARMED FORCES ALONG THE EAST COAST AREAS AND SAILED UP TO A POINT 7.6 MILES OFF NODO (39 DEGREES 17.4 MINUTES NORTH, 127 DEGREES 46.9 MINUTES EAST) (BRACKETS AS TRANSMITTED), WHEN THE NAVY PATROL CRAFTS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY APPEARED.



ON THE ALERT INSTANTLY AND TRIED TO ESCAPE, FIRING  
NAVY PATROL CRAFTS OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY.

BUT THE SITUATION BECAME MORE DANGEROUS FOR US AND THUS ONE  
OF MY MEN WAS KILLED, ANOTHER HEAVILY WOUNDED AND TWO OTHERS  
LIGHTLY WOUNDED.

WE HAD NO WAY OUT, AND WERE CAPTURED BY THE NAVY PATROL  
CRAFTS OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY.

HAVING BEEN CAPTURED NOW, I SAY FRANKLY THAT OUR ACT WAS A  
CRIMINAL ACT WHICH FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT,  
AND IT WAS A SHEER ACT OF AGGRESSION.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISGUIISING THE ACTIVITIES OF MY SHIP  
THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE PERIOD OF ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES, WE USED  
CUNNING METHODS, NAMELY, WE DID NOT HOIST THE U.S. FLAG AND  
SAILED AT THE HIGHEST SPEED WHEN RUNNING OUT OF THE TERRITORIAL  
WATERS AFTER THE ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES HAVING INTRUDED INTO  
TERRITORIAL WATERS FROM THE HIGH SEAS.

I HAVE NO EXCUSE WHATSOEVER FOR MY CRIMINAL ACT AS MY SHIP  
INTRUDED DEEP INTO THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND WAS CAPTURED BY THE NAVAL PATROL  
CRAFTS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY- IN THEIR SELF-DEFENSE ACTION  
WHILE CONDUCTING THE CRIMINAL ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES.

THE CRIME COMMITTED BY ME AND MY MEN IS ENTIRELY INDELIBLE.

I AND MY CREW HAVE PERPETRATED A GRAVE CRIMINAL ACT, BUT  
OUR PARENTS AND WIVES AND CHILDREN AT HOME ARE ANXIOUSLY WAITING  
FOR US TO RETURN HOME SAFE.

THEREFORE, WE ONLY HOPE, AND IT IS THE GREATEST DESIRE OF  
MYSELF AND ALL MY CREW, THAT WE WILL BE FORGIVEN LENIENTLY  
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

(ENDALL)

24 JAN 1830Z CF/EAM