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TO RUHLHQ/CINCPAC

INFO RUEKDA/JCS

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PROOF OF AETACK (U)

A. JCS 7770 DTG 061642Z NOTAL

B. CINCPAC 061841Z NOTAL

1. LAW REF B, FOLLOWING INFO IS SUBMITTED FOR RESPONSE TO REF A:

A. USS MADDOX (DD 731), WHILE ON PATROL IN OHE GULF ON TONKIN,

2
WAS ATTACKED AT 1508 GOLF ON 2 AUGUST BY THREE NORTH IETNAMESE

NOTOR TORPEDO BOATS. MADDOX WAS, AT THE TIME OF ATTACK, APPROXIMATELY

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WERE DISPLAYED ON THE RADAR SCREENS OF BOTH SHIPS, INDICATED PROBABLE
HOSTILE INTENT BY SHANGING COURSE AND SPEED TO CLOSE THE RANGE AND
TAKE COURSE WHICH WOULD PERMIT LAUNCHING TORPEDOES. MADDOX AND
TURNER JOY OPENED FIRE WHEN IT WAS EVIDENT FROM THE MANEUVERS OF
THE APPROACHING CONTACTS THAT THEY WERE PRESSING IN FOR TORPEDO
LAUNCHING POSITIOF. ABOUT ONE MINUTE LATER MADDOXI HAVING HEARDD

A TORPEDO RUNNING ON HER SONAR (HEARD BY CAPTAIN HERRICK, US NAVY,
COXDESUV 192, AND OTHERS IN THE CIC), IFORKED TURNER JOY THAT A

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TORQEDO HAD BEEN LAUNCHED AND WAS HEADED IN THE DIRECTION OF TURNER
JOY. LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE JOHN JEROME WARRY III, FILE NUMBER

66'848, US NAVY, ATTACHED TO TURNER JOY AND SERVING AS THE FORWARD

GUN DIRECTOR OFFICER, SIGHTED A TORPEDO COMING FROM THE DIRECTION

OF THE RADAR CONTACTS WHICH HAD AMBUSHED THE U.S. SHIPS. TURNER

2
JOY TURNED TO AVAOURD THE TORQEDO AND L& 2-446, LARRY O'LITTON,

[REDACTED] SEAMAN, US NAVY, WHO WAS WITH LTJG WARRY IN THE GUN
DIRECTOR, AND ED8 [REDACTED] SEAMAN APPRENTICE, US NAVY,
WHO WAS SHIP'S LOOKOUT FOR THE PORT SIDE, SIGHTED THE TORPEDO
PASSING PARALLEL TO TURNER JOY AT DISTANCE OF 300 FEET. THE
TORPEDO PASSED ALONG TURNER JOY FROM AFT TO FORWARD ON THE BEARING
FROM WHICH MADDOX HAD REPORTED THE TORPEDO WAS APPROACHING. DURING
THE ATTACK A SEARCHLIGHT WAS OBSERVED BY ALL SIGNAL BRIDGE AND
MANEUVERING BRIDGE PERSONNEL INCLUDING THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF
TURNER JOY. THE BEAM OF THE SEARCHLIGHT DID NOT TOUCH THE SHIP,
BUT WAS SEEN TO SWUNG IN AN ARC TOWARD TURNER JOY AND WAS IMMEDIATELY
EXTINGUISHED WHEN AIRCRAFT FROM THE COMBAT AIR PATROL ORBITING
ABOVE THE SHIPS APPROACHED. TURNER JOY PERSONNEL MAKING STATEMENTS
REGARDING THE SEARCHLIGHT SIGHTING WERE RECHARD M. BACION, [REDACTED]
SIGNALMAN SECOND CLASS, US NAVY GARY D. CARROL, [REDACTED] SIGNALMAN

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(b) (6)

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THIRD CLASS, US NAVY. THE ATTACKING TORPEDO BOATS WERE ACTUALLY

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DESCRIBED BY THE FOLLOWING TURNER JOY PERSONNEL: DONALD

V. SHSRKEY, [REDACTED] BOATSWANS MATE THIRD CLASS, US NAVY; KENNETH

E. GARRISON, [REDACTED] SEAMAN, US NAVY; DELNER JONES, [REDACTED]

SEAMAN APPRENTICE, US NAVY; AND ARTHUR B. ANDERSON, [REDACTED]

FIRECONTROLMAN SEAMAN APPRENTICE, US NAVY. THESE PERSONNEL SIGHTED

THE TORPEDO BOATS WHEN THE COMBAT AIR CONTROL AIRCRAFT OVERHEAD

DROPPED FLARES. NONE OF THESE PERSONNEL HAD SEEN A MOTOR TORPEDO

BOAT BEFORE (TURNER JOY NOT HAVING BEEN IN THE 2 AUGUST ACTION),

BUT ON THE BASIS OF THEIR OBSERVATIONS EACH ON INDEPENDENTLY DREW

AN ACCURATE SKETCH OF A MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SIMILAR TO THOSE

KNOWN TO BE OPERATIONAL IN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE NAVY. MOREOVER,

THE SKETCHES WERE SIMILAR TO THE TORPEDO BOATS WHICH HAD ATTACKED

THE MADDOX IN DAYLIGHT ON 2 AUGUST. COMMANDER G.H. EDMONDSON,

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US NAVY, COMMANDING OFFICER OF ATTACK SQUADRON 22, AND HIS WINGMAN

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WERE FLYING COMBAT AIR PATROL IN THE ICINITY OF MADDOX AND

TURNER JOY AT THE TUME OF THE TORPEDOSSTTACK. BOTH OFFICERS WERE

FLYING AE ALTITUDES RANGING BETWEEN 700 AND 1500 FEET WHEN THEY

SIGHTED GKN FLASHES ON THE SURFACE OF THE WATER AS WELL AS LUGHT

ANTI-AIRCRAFT BURSTS AT THEIR APPROXIMATE ALTITUDE. ON ONE PASS

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OVER THE US DESTROYERS, BOTH PILOTS POSITIVELY SIGHTED A "SNAKEY"

WAKE ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES AHEAD OF THE LEAD DESTROYER, USS

MADDOX. THE WEATHER WAS OVERKAST WUTH LIMITED VISIBILITY HOWEVERN

SURFACE VISIBUDITY WAS SUFFICIENT FOR SERGEANT MATTHEW B. ALLASNE,

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USMC, AND LANCE CORPORAL DAVID A. PROUTY, , USMC I

WHO WERE MANNING MACHINE GUNS ON MADDOX, TO SIGHT LIGHTS PASS UP

TYE PORT SIDE OF THE SHIP, GO OUT AHEAD, AND THEN PASS DOWN THE

STARBOARD SIDE. BOTH BELIEED THE LIGHTS TO BE FROM ONE OR MORE

SMALL BOATS GOUNG AT HIGH SPEED.

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2. FOREGOING NARRATIVE DERIVED FROM OPERATIONAL SUMMARIES AND A

SERIES OF STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO CINCPACFLT BY

MESSAGE AND ARE BEING FORWARDED SEPARATELY TO CINCPAC AND JCS.

POINTS INCLUDED IN THIS NARRATIVE ARE SUBSTANTIATED IN GREATER

DETAIL IN THESE STATEMENTS.

3. APART FROM THE ONE INSTANCE OF MACHINE GUN BULLET STRIKING THE

USS MADDOX DURING THE ACTION ON 2 AUGUST, THERE WAS NO DAMAGE

INFLECTED ON ANY U. S. UNIT DURING EITHER ACTION.

4. PHOTOGRAPHY OBTAINED FROM ON BOARD USS MADDOX DURING THE 2

AUGUST ACTION WILL BE SUBMITTED SEPARATELY BY MOST EXPEDITIOUS

MEANS. SO FAR AS CAN BE DETERMINED, THERE WAS NO PHOTOGRAPHY

OBTAINED DURING THE NIGHT ACTION ON 4 AUGUST.

GP-4

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