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NAVAL MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL NAVY DEPARTMENT

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SER NO 23. C-21 SUMMARY TO DATE.

1. PERTINENT FACTORS:

- A. INITIAL SIGHTING WAS STERN ASPECT OF POSITIVE SUB WITH DECK AWASH. SIGHTED BY TWO WF PILOTS, ONE WITH FOUR YEARS VP ASW EXPERIENCE, ALTITUDE 3000 FEET, DISTANCE TEN MILES IN EXCELLENT WEATHER, VISIBILITY AND SEA STATE. BLACK SMOKE EMITTING FROM SUB WAS SUFFICIENT TO REDUCE VISIBILITY AS A/C CLOSED TO ABOUT ONE MILE AT WHICH TIME A/C ENTERED A CLOUD FOR ESTIMATED 15 SECONDS. UPON EMERGING SUB HAD DISAPPEARED.
- B. SAU OF ONE P2V AND ONE WF OR ONE AD5Q AND TWO DD S65-23 EQUIPPED HAVE BEEN AT DATUM CONTINUOUSLY. TWO DD TIME LATE 50 MINUTES. SAU AUGMENTED BY ONE DD WITH S65-30 SINCE 011145R.
- C. CLASSIFICATIONS BY SAU COMMANDER HAVE RANGED FROM POSSIBLE TO PROBABLE TO NON-SUB. PROBABLE WAS PREDICATED ON DUPONT SIGHTING OF PERISCOPE BY FIVE WITNESSES INCLUDING OOD AND TWO QMS PLUS ALL THREE DDS EXPERIENCING METALLIC ECHOES. ADDITIONAL REPORTS WITHIN SAU INCLUDED SLOW PROP NOISE; DOPPLER; SATISFACTORY RECORDER TRACE AND HYDROPHONE EFFECT; AND POSSIBLE DECOY.

SECNAV/33/92... COG
 02...09...09B...03...31...32...34...35...62...07...94(6)...IP...JCS/J2
 CSAF...COGARD...DIRNSA...CIA...DIA...NIC...NAVAIDE...FLAGPLOT...BFR

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D. CLASSIFICATION BY A/C HAVE RUN SAME GAMUT AS SAU. PROBABLE CLASSIFICATION PREDICATED ON MAD; JOLIE WITH CAVITATION; DIVE PLANE NOISE AND 60 RPM PROP COUNT. CONTACTS VARIED FROM QUOTE METALLIC UNQUOTE TO QUOTE NOT VERY METALLIC UNQUOTE.

E. ORIGINAL DARTM AND SUBSEQUENT CONTACTS CONTAINED IN CIRCLE OF 35 MILE DIAMETER.

2. COMBINED A/C AND SAU HAVE PROSUED THIS CONTACT FOR BETTER THAN 72 HOUR AT THE BEGINNING WE WERE CONVINCED WE HAD A POSITIVE SUB AND DETERMINED TO HANG ON UNTIL HE CAME UP. AS TIME PROGRESSED OUR ATTITUDE HAS CHANGED FROM CONFIDENCE TO FRUSTRATION TO DOUBT AS THE NATURE OF THE CONTACTS VARIED. MY PRESENT EVALUATION THAT THE ORIGINAL CONTACT WAS A POSITIVE SUB SIGHTING. CURRENTLY AT BEST SUB IS PLAYING POSSUM AT DEPTHS UP TO 800 FEET; AT WORSE HE HAS EVADED POSSIBLY BY LEAVING A DECOY. UNLESS YOU ADVISE OTHERWISE, WHILE WE REMAIN IN THIS AREA WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROSECUTE C-21 SO LONG AS WE GET SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE HOWEVER CONFLICTING. WE WOULD GIVE A LOT TO SEE THIS GUY AGAIN, THAT IS IF HE IS STILL HERE. IF NOT, WHERE DID HE GO? OUR A/C HAVE HAD THIS WHOLE PLACE UNDER INTENSE SEARCH IN IDEAL WEATHER AND SEA CONDITIONS.

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