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PRIORITY PILOT INFO [REDACTED]

HEXAGON SECUR

ATTN: [REDACTED]

FROM: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF CMDR. J.B. MOONEY

Approved for
Release
Historical
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Division
AR 70-14, 1 AUG
2012

CMDR. JONATHAN B. MOONEY WAS BRIEFED HX-3 ON 27 OCT. MOONEY ADVISED HE HAD CONDUCTED A TECHNICAL DEBRIEFING OF DR. FRED SPEISS ON THESDAY AND IN THE COURSE OF THIS DEBRIEFING SPEISS HAD EXPRESSED A CONCERN ABOUT THE SQUALLS WHICH HE HAD ENCOUNTERED IN THE RECOVERY AREA. SPEISS INFORMED MOONEY THAT THESE SQUALLS MIGHT PRESENT A HAZARD TO THE TRIESTE AND ITS DIVERS. APPARENTLY THESE SQUALLS WERE FREQUENT OCCURRENCES DURING SPEISS' OPERATION AND BOTH MOONEY AND SPEISS AGREED THAT A RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT SPOTTING THESE SQUALLS WITHIN A TWO HUNDRED MILE RADIUS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE TRIESTE OPERATION. MOONEY ADVISED HE HAD MADE AN INFORMAL REQUEST THROUGH NAVY CHANNELS FOR SUCH AN AIRCRAFT BUT HE HAD NOT GOTTEN ANY

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

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ENCOURAGEMENT ON THIS SCORE. HE THOUGHT THAT PILOT MIGHT BE ABLE TO UTILIZE ITS CHANNELS AND PRIORITIES TO OBTAIN SUCH AN AIRCRAFT, WITH A METEOROLOGIST ABOARD, THROUGH THE PENTAGON.

IF THIS CAN BE ARRANGED, MOONEY REQUESTED HE BE NOTIFIED THROUGH CAPTAIN TOM BREWSTER AT CINCPAC FLEET. BREWSTER CAN BE REACHED ON 57133 AT COMCPAC AND HE WILL BE MOONEY'S PRINCIPAL NAVY CONTACT AND SOURCE OF SUPPORT DURING THIS OPERATION.

MOONEY ALSO ADVISED THAT THE TRIESTE HAS BEEN OUTSIDE SAN DIEGO WATERS ON ONLY THREE OCCASIONS. TWO OF THESE WERE ON THE SUBMARINE DISASTERS AND THE OTHER WAS THE SEARCH FOR THE H-BOMB OFF SPAIN. THEREFORE, IF SPOTTED ON THE RECOVERY EFFORT THE TRIESTE COULD BE A FLAG TO THE SOVIETS OR OTHERS THAT SOMETHING UNIQUE WAS UNDERWAY. AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE, HE HAS ALREADY INSTRUCTED CDR. DANIEL'S TO KEEP THE KLUGE COVERED AS THEY MOVED TO THE RECOVERY AREA.

MOONEY ALSO WAS REQUESTED TO EXERCISE HIS COMMAND FUNCTION OF MAINTAINING THE SECURITY OF THIS OPERATION

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INsofar AS HIS OWN TROOPS ARE CONCERNED, THIS HE AGREED TO AND HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO LOOK TO THE PILOT REP ON THE SCENE FOR THE IMMEDIATE SECURITY DIRECTION DURING RECOVERY.

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BT