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NOTE DATED 24 NOVEMBER 1951 FROM THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING A REPORT FROM THE UNIFIED COMMAND IN KOREA

Paris, 24 November 1951

The United States Representative to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to report the following from the Unified Command under the United States, for submission to the Security Council:

A United Nations plane, a two-motored P2V Bomber operating under General Ridgway's command in connection with the United Nations operations in Korea, failed to return from a weather reconnaissance over the Sea of Japan on November 6, 1951. An intensive search for survivors proved fruitless.

From the last reported position of this plane at 0850 (-9 time zone) on November 6, it is undoubtedly this plane that was the subject of a Soviet statement to the United States Charge d'Affaires in Moscow on November 7, admitting that two Soviet fighter planes fired on a two-engine bomber at 1310 November 6 in the vicinity of Cape Ostrovnya.

The route this plane was following did not approach closer than 40 miles to USSR territory, and the plane crew had been thoroughly briefed not to approach closer than 20 miles to USSR territory under any circumstances.

It can only be concluded that an intentional or unplanned approach to the Russian coast was not made, and that the plane was intercepted and attacked without warning while over international water, and furthermore, while well outside of 20 miles from the Russian coastline.

(Signed) Warren R. Austin

