Herrick Cables

Cables sent from Captain Herrick, the commander of the Maddox, the vessel that was attacked in the Gulf of Tonkin.

**1:27 AM August 4, 1964**

"Review of action makes many reported contacts and torpedoes fired appear doubtful. Freak weather effects on radar and overeager sonarmen may have accounted for many reports. No actual visual sightings by*Maddox*. Suggest complete evaluation before any further action taken" -

**2:27 AM August 4, 1964**

"Entire action leaves many doubts except for apparent ambush at beginning. Suggest thorough reconnaissance in daylight by aircraft."

"Details of action present a confusing picture although certain that the original ambush was bona fide."

**6:00 PM August 4, 1964**

"the first boat to close the *Maddox* probably launched a torpedo at the *Maddox* which was heard but not seen. All subsequent *Maddox* torpedo reports are doubtful in that it is suspected that sonarman was hearing ship's own propeller beat"