

The Weather

Today—Rain ending, followed by clearing skies. High in upper 40s. Tuesday—Fair and colder. Probability of precipitation, 40% today, 20% tonight. Temp. range: Today, 39-46. Yesterday, 32-45. Details on C6.

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N. Korea Releases

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Pueblo Crew

U.S. 'Repudiated' And Then Signed Reds' 'Confession'

Washington

By Warren Unna

Washington Post Staff Writers

The United States convinced North Korea to release the Pueblo crew after first delivering a mutually agreed upon "repudiation," and then signing North Korea's prepared "confession" of territorial intrusion and espionage.

"It's kooky, I agree," a high U.S. official said last night. But he emphasized that it worked.

The United States has back the 82 surviving members of the crew exactly 11 months after their capture, and, in its own eyes, did not have to "lie" about violating North Korea's territorial waters and committing espionage. The United States insists the Pueblo and its crew did neither.

'Strange Procedure'

Secretary of State Dean Rusk last night termed it "a strange procedure . . . If you ask me why these two contradictory statements proved to be the key to effect the release of our men, the North Koreans would have to explain it. I know of no precedent in my 19 years of public service."

The breakthrough, according to State Department officials, came when the United States submitted two alternate proposals to the North Koreans at the Panmunjom negotiating site and told them if these didn't work North Korea would have to take its chances at starting all over again in negotiations with the Nixon Administration.

The first alternative, which the United States had submitted as far back as October, was termed the "over-write proposal."

It called for Maj. Gen. Gilbert H. Woodward, chief of the U.S. negotiating team, to sign a receipt for the

Pueblo crew over North Korea's statement of charges, providing North Korea agreed to release the men at the same time. This was similar to what happened on May 17, 1964, when the United States "receipted" the return of two captured helicopter pilots and the North Koreans flourished this as an admission of guilt.

Conceived This Month

The second proposal, and the one which proved to work, was conceived only this month by James F. Leonard, the State Department's country director for Korea.

Under it, the North Koreans were first given in advance a formal statement Gen. Woodward would make denying the North Koreans charges. The statement declared an apology couldn't be made and added: "My signature will not and cannot alter the facts. I will sign the document to free the crew, and only to free the crew."

Providing this was acceptable, North Korea was told Gen. Woodward was prepared to sign North Korea's own document of charges.

"We thought by putting the two together we might

See RELEASE, A4, Col. 8

Panmunjom

By Selig S. Harrison

Washington Post Foreign Service

PANMUNJOM, Korea, Dec. 23 (Monday) — The 82 surviving crewmembers of the USS Pueblo were returned to American custody today, 11 months to the day after their capture by Communist North Korea.

North Korea marched its prize prisoners across a bleak expanse of the demilitarized no-man's-land at this truce village in a wintry climax to six months of intensive negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang.

The Pueblo, a spy-ship equipped with electronic monitoring gear, originally carried 83 men. One man was killed during the ship's capture on Jan. 23 off the North Korean coast. The long negotiations on the crew's release concerned whether the Pueblo had violated North Korea's territorial waters.

After initial identification and interrogation procedures conducted by American officers at a makeshift reception center of green Quonset huts in the Demilitarized Zone dividing North and South Korea, the crew members filed into a U.S. Army advance camp. About 100 newsmen waited there for a close-up glimpse as the men stopped for snacks in a small cafeteria.

Then the men were whisked off in a relay of helicopter flights to the 121st Evacuation Hospital at the Ascom Army base near Inchon for

See PUEBLO, A4, Col. 1 .

'Confession' Repudiated And Signed

RELEASE, From A1

push them into the 'overwrite' proposal," one State Department official declared. He made it clear the United States felt the "overwrite" of its signature on a receipt would be far more desirable to North Korea than an accompanying formal repudiation.

U.S. Surprised

But, to the now acknowledged surprise of the United States, North Korea decided to buy the proposal with its formal repudiation.

North Korea also took up the U.S. negotiators' suggestion that the crew be returned by Dec. 23 so that the men could be home by Christmas.

The final session, at which the time of release was agreed upon, came at 11 p.m. Saturday Washington time (1 p.m. Sunday, Korean time). State Department officials described the North Koreans as unsmiling and impassive.

"They were very business-like, very matter-of-fact. They simply said, 'We've reached agreement,'" it was explained.

Comparison Made

U.S. Officials added that, in comparison with the acrimonious sessions with North Korea ending the Korean War in the 1950's, the North Koreans this time were "moderate," always using a softer key in the actual negotiating sessions than they did in their public propaganda denunciations.

The North Korean document of charges that Gen. Woodward signed acknowledged "the validity of the confessions of the crew (that they) had intruded into the territorial waters"; said the United States "solemnly apologizes"; and had the United States give "firm assurance that no U.S. ships will intrude again."

PUEBLO, From A1

a medical check-up before a closely guarded flight to an undisclosed location.

The Ascom hospital is a maze-like complex of 31 interconnected Quonset huts sprawling along a hillside on the western edge of the Ascom base.

A helicopter pad sits on a knoll immediately overlooking the hospital entrance. One of two helipads serving the base, it is close enough to permit the prompt transfer of the crew directly into the hospital across the road after the helicopters land, with little chance for newsmen to get more than a passing look.

Initial speculation regarding the probable destination of the crew suggested that they would be flown from Ascom to the U.S. air base at Osan in South Korea and then to Honolulu and the San Diego Naval Base. But some observers believe they will go aboard a U.S. Navy vessel at the South Korean naval base at Chinhae, east of Pusan, where they can undergo interrogation at sea far from prying newsmen prior to their flight to San Diego.

News agencies reported these developments:

Prior to the release, Maj. Gen. Gilbert Woodward, who had been representing the United States in private talks on the fate of the Pueblo crew, signed a document prepared by the North Koreans concerning the release.

Woodward told newsmen

later the document contained "the usual garbage" he had come to expect from the North Koreans. He added that his North Korean opposite number, Maj. Gen. Kook Pak Chung, had been his usual "arrogant" self during their meeting Monday.

A U.S. spokesman at Panmunjon denied North Korean charges that the Pueblo had been "engaged in illegal activity" at the time it was taken into captivity. He added that the document Woodward signed was endorsed by the American official simply "to free the crew and only to free the crew."

Events in the Detention Of Intelligence Vessel

United Press International

The chronology of events in the North Korean capture and detention of the U.S. Intelligence ship Pueblo and her crew:

Jan. 23 — Four North Korean patrol boats capture the USS Pueblo in the Sea of Japan off North Korea's eastern coast. U.S. officials describe incident as "a matter of the utmost gravity" and insist ship was 25 miles off coast.

Jan. 24 — Secretary of State Rusk describes seizure as "in the category of . . . an act of war" and warns the North Koreans to "cool it." North Korean radio broadcasts an alleged confession by Pueblo Capt. Bucher that he had deliberately violated North Korean waters.

Jan. 25 — President Johnson orders 14,787 Air Force and Navy reservists to active duty and announces American military forces in and around South Korea will be strengthened.

Jan. 26 — U.N. Security Council meets on Pueblo crisis but finds no solution.

Feb. 6 — The U.S. withdraws the carrier Enterprise from the position it had taken near the North Korean post of Onson.

Feb. 12 — North Korean radio reports Bucher makes second "confession" to violating North Korean waters.

March 4 — President Johnson receives an open letter purported to be from Pueblo crewmen asking United States to frankly admit the vessel had violated North Korean territory.

March 22-April 2 — North Korea circulates series of letters allegedly written by captive men and warns U.S. failure to apologize could cost lives of crew.

June 19 — State Department discloses talks on crew release make no progress.

Sept. 13 — Japanese newspapers report news conference at Pyongyang at which crew members allegedly said they had been ordered

to intrude within the 3-mile limit.

Dec. 19 — Congressional sources in Washington say agreement reached for crew release.

Dec. 22 — State Department announces crew to be released.

Pueblo-11 Vexing Months

By Warren Unna

Washington Post Staff Writer

North Korea's release of the Pueblo crew climaxed 11 months of acute embarrassment for the United States—in front of both its foreign and domestic audiences.

It was like a fable right out of Aesop: The tiny mouse had his sharp teeth in the tail of the big powerful lion, and wouldn't let go until he felt like it.

The incident really began last Jan. 5 when the Navy intelligence ship Pueblo slipped out from a Japanese port under secret orders to patrol off the coast of North Korea in order to report on Communist shipping and locate radar installations.

The sailing orders limited the Pueblo's probing mission to 13 miles off the North Korean shore. North Korea claims a 12-mile territorial water limit, but the United States has never officially recognized more than a three-mile limit.

On Jan. 23, North Korea, claiming that the Pueblo had intruded into her territorial waters, forced the ship into capture, four of the 83-man crew were wounded. One later died.

U.S. officials insist that the Pueblo at the time of her capture was well within international waters. But since the ship was relatively unarmed, and totally without escort, she couldn't very well resist.

U.S. Indignant

The U.S. response was one of extreme indignation—illustrated by charts at the U.N. Security Council and full television coverage.

But despite all the charts and indignation, foreign diplomats as well as members of Congress found it difficult to make a spy ship look like an innocent maiden. They quietly kept asking: What business had a spy ship being there in the first place? And why was it unescorted?

North Korea, meanwhile,

began a parade of confessions, exhibiting photographs and signed statements from Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, the Pueblo's skipper, right down through

Although the Administration insisted that the Pueblo never intruded—and insists so even privately to this day—both Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and Secretary of State Dean Rusk left the door ajar a bit in their joint appearance on "Meet the Press" on Feb. 4.

They acknowledged that there was a period of radio si-

lence Jan. 10 to Jan. 21—prior to the capture — when the Pueblo's exact location wasn't definitely known.

The Hard Facts

When the cries began to mount during this political campaign year to "do something," President Johnson's Administration was obliged to tell the U.S. public the hard facts of life: No rescue operation could be mounted for the Pueblo which would guarantee getting the crew out alive. Leaving the ship itself behind was a foregone conclusion.

Nevertheless, President-elect Nixon, in his speech accepting the Republican nomination in Miami last August declared: "When respect for the United States of America falls so low that a fourth-rate military power, like North Korea, will seize an American naval vessel on the high seas, it is time for new leadership to restore respect for the United States of America."

But the only way to repatriate the Pueblo crew was on North Korea's terms. And these began being spelled out at the first meeting at Panmunjom in the Korea Demilitarized Zone on Jan. 24, the day after the Pueblo's capture.

Essentially North Korea wanted three things: Admission of trespassing in her sovereign waters, a personal apology from President Johnson and a U.S. commitment never

to transgress again.

The President, for reasons of the integrity of office and national pride, did not want to pay the high price of admitting an offense he didn't believe the United States had committed.

The Other Korea.

And he also had South Korea to consider. The South Koreans long have been apprehensive lest the United States, in its impatience to rescue the Pueblo crew, forget about South Korea's own needs to consolidate its people in a stable, non-Communist government which can resist the siren songs from the Communist North.

As the months wore on, time seemed to play a part in the considerations of both President Johnson and North Korea.

The President, with only weeks to go before the end of his Administration, was anxious to tidy up the acutely embarrassing Pueblo incident as finished business.

North Korea, presumably, had drained all the propaganda value out of its exploit in humiliating the "imperialist" leader, the United States,

and exhibiting its crew with signed confessions of having intruded into North Korean waters.

Moreover, there had been reports that the feed, care and security watch on 82 Pueblo crewmen represented both a

financial drain and a troublesome chore for North Korea.

Therefore both sides found they could get together on the formula for a statement which would allow the Pueblo crewmen to come home from their long captivity.

Names of Pueblo Crewmen Listed

United Press International
Here are the names of 81 of the 82 surviving members of the Pueblo crew. One man was not identified at his family's request. Another, Duane H. Hodges of Creswell, Ore., died of injuries suffered in the capture of the Pueblo.

Stewardsman Crogelio Parel Abelon.

Stewardsman Rizalino Lastrella Aluague.

Communications Technician Wayne Drexel Anderson.

Fireman Apprentice Richard Everett Arnold.

Communications Technician 3d class Charles William Ayling.

Communications Technician 1st class Don Earl Bailey.

Hospital Corpsman 1st class Herman Paul Baldrige.

Engineman Fireman Apprentice Richard Ivan Bame.

Seaman Peter Milton Bander.

Communications Technician 1st class Michael Thomas Barrett.

Boatswain's Mate 3d class Ronald Loon Berens.

Fireman Apprentice Howard Edward Bland.

Engineman 1st class Rushel Blansett Jr.

Chief Communications Technician Ralph Dalton Bouden.

Communications Technician 3d class Paul David Brusnahan.

Commander Lloyd Mark Bucher.

Boatswain's Mate 3d class Willie Columbus Bussell.

Yeoman 1st class Armando Moreno Canales.

Marine Sgt. Robert J. Chicca.

Radioman 3d class Charles Henry Crandell Jr.

Communications Technician 3d class Bradley Reed Crowe.

Communications Technician 3d class Rodney Harteman Duke.

Seaman Stephen Paul Ellis.

Interior Communications

Electrician 2d class Victor Deleon Escamilla.

Storekeeper 1st class Policarpo Polla Garcia.

Communications Technician 1st class Francis John Ginther.

Chief Engineman Monroe Onel Goldman.

Communications Technician 3d class John White Grant.

Electrician's Mate 1st class Gerald William Hagenson.

Marine Staff Sgt. Robert J. Hammond.

Lt. Stephen R. Harris.

Engineman Timothy Leon Harris.

Radioman Lee Roy Hayes.

Fireman John Charles Higgins Jr.

Seaman Robert Walter Hill Jr.

Communications Technician 3d class Sidney Jerry Karnes.

Communications Technician Chief James Francis Kell.

Communications Technician 3d class Earl Murray Kisler.

Boatswain's Mate 1st class Norbert John Klepac.

Chief Warrant Officer Gene Howard Lacy.

Communications Technician 3d class Anthony Andrew Lamantia.

Communications Technician 2d class Peter Morton Laugenberg.

Quartermaster 1st class Charles Benton Law Jr.

Communications Technician 1st class James Dewar Layton.

Signalman 2d class Wendell Gene Leach.

Commissaryman 2d class Harry Lewis.

Commissaryman 2d class Donald R. McClarren.

Communications Technician Chief Ralph McClintock.

Photographer's Mate 1st class Lawrence William Mack.

Seaman Roy Jay Maggard.

Seaman Apprentice Larry Joe Marshall.

Fireman Apprentice William Thomas Massie.

Fireman Apprentice 1st

class John Arthur Mitchell.

Lt. Edward Renz Murphy Jr.

Electronics Technician Radar 2d class Clifford Clair Nolte.

Fireman Michael A. O'Bannon.

Communications Technician 1st class Donald R. Peppard.

Seaman Apprentice Earl Raymond Phares.

Quartermaster 3d class Alvin Henry Plucker.

Commissaryman 3d class Ralph Edward Reed.

Seaman Dale Evans Rigby.

Communications Technician 1st class David Lee Ritter.

Communications Technician Seaman Steven Jay Robin.

Seaman Recruit Richard Joseph Rogala.

Seaman Recruit Ramon Rosales.

Seaman Edward Stuart Russell.

Engineman 2d class William D. Scarborough.

Lt. (J.G.) Frederick Carl Schumacher Jr.

Communications Technician 1st class James Antwyne Shepard.

Communications Technician 3d class John Allen Shilling.

Seaman Apprentice John Robert Shingleton.

Fireman Apprentice Norman William Spear.

Communications Technician 2d class Charles Ray Sterling.

Communications Technician 3d class Angelo Salvatore Strano.

Fireman Lawrence Edwin Strickland.

Gunner's Mate 2d class Kenneth Roy Wadley.

Fireman Apprentice Steven Eugene Woelk.

Communications Technician 2d class Elton Allen Wood.

Engineman 3d class Darrell Dean Wright.

Civilian Oceanographers Harry R. Iredale, a guided missileman.

Dunnie Richard Tuck Jr., a guided missileman.

Chillum Marine Among Pueblo Crew; Family Flying to West Coast Reunion

A Chillum Marine, Sgt. Robert J. Chicca, soon will see his infant son for the first time. The child, Jaime, was born 36 days after Chicca and 82 other Americans were captured aboard the USS Pueblo by the North Koreans.

Chicca's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. J. Chicca, 701 Somerset pl., his wife, Ann, and 10-month old son are scheduled to fly to the West Coast today to greet the 24-year old Marine when he arrives in the U.S.

The 82 crewmen who were released by North Korea last night, reportedly will be airlifted to San Diego Naval Hospital by way of Honolulu.

Chicca and three other crew members were injured

when the ship was captured by North Korean gunboats. One man, Fireman Duane D. Hodges, Creswell, Ore., died in captivity.

Chicca's family said they were told yesterday morning by a Marine spokesman that their son, the oldest of seven children, was to be released. "It's going to be a wonderful Christmas," said Tom, a brother.

The family said the Marines informed them some months ago that the sergeant had been injured in the leg.

They said they never received any indication that he received any of the many letters they sent him during his captivity.

Chicca, a graduate of Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, spent one year at the University of Maryland before enlisting in the Marines five years ago.

He re-enlisted once about two years ago, his family said, and had been aboard the Pueblo only a short time when it departed on what turned out to be its last intelligence-gathering cruise along the North Korean coast.

Associated Press reported:

Telephones rang in the dark hours of the morning yesterday in homes throughout the United States telling families of the Pueblo crewmen that they will be reunited with the men for Christmas.



SGT. ROBERT J. CHICCA
... Chillum man freed

"This is a Christmas present we'll never forget," said Ben Ellis of Culver City, Calif., father of Seaman Stephen Ellis.

But from San Diego, Calif., a spokesman for Mrs. Lloyd M. Bucher, wife of the Pueblo skipper, said: "She is not going to make any comment, at least today. She's going to be cautious until her husband is in her hands and on free soil."

Mrs. Bucher raised her voice often in the 11 months since the Navy intelligence ship was captured by North Korea, imploring that the nation not forget the prisoners and urging action to free them.

Charles H. Crandall Sr., of Independence, Mo., said he

was "very proud" of his son Radioman 3d class Charles H. Crandall Jr., and added: "We'd rather see him fighting for his country than against it like many young men are doing."

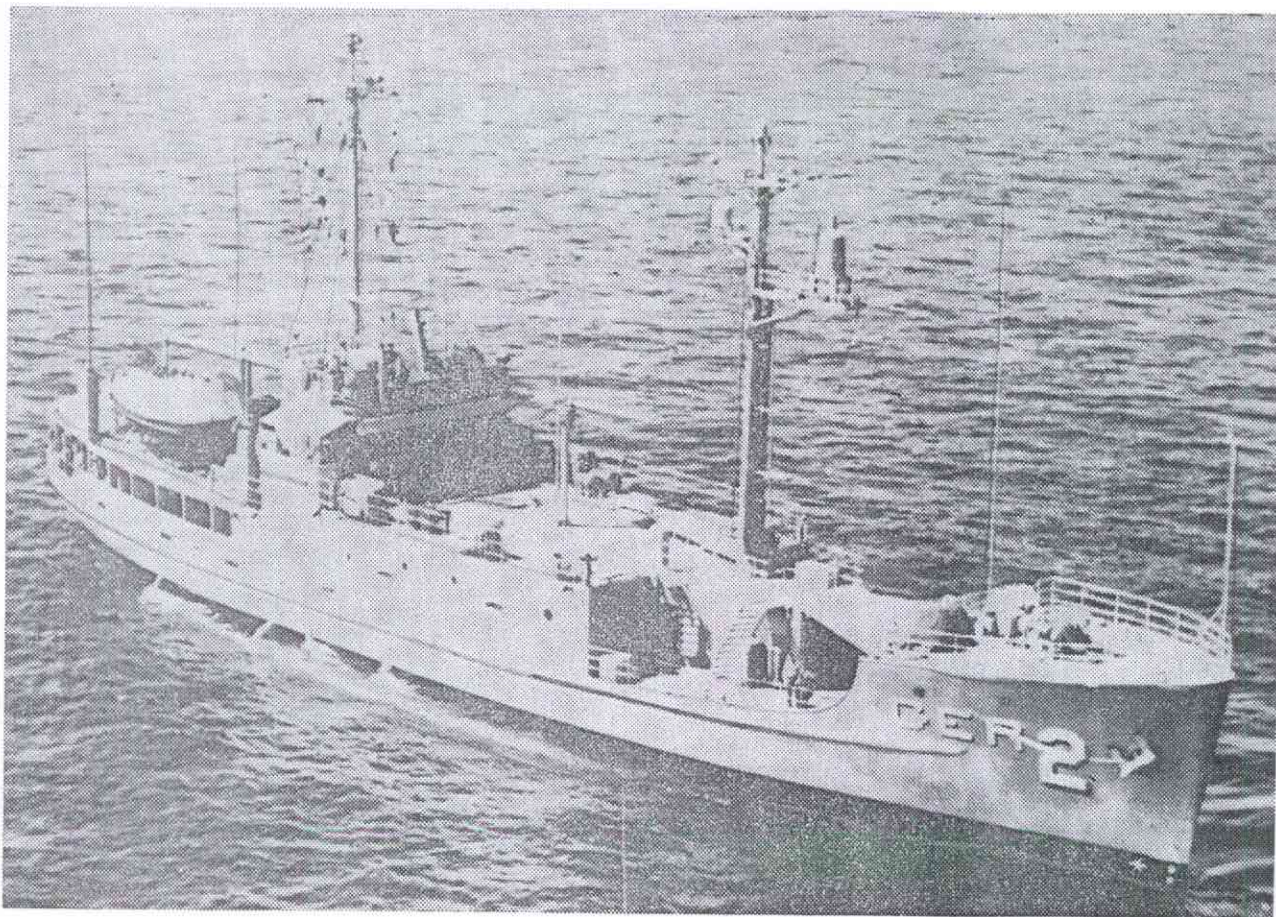
The parents of Communications Technician Earl M. Kisler plan to hold an open house when their son returns to introduce him to the many people who have expressed concern for his safety.

Edward S. Russell of Glendale, Calif., called the news "unbelievable." It finally happened after all these rumors," he said. Russell said his son, Seaman Edward S. Russell Jr., plans to enroll in the University of Southern California after he leaves the Navy.

The news was "one of those things you don't mind waking up for," said Mrs. Roy Rigby, of Centerville, Utah, mother of crewman Dale Rigby, 20.

Mrs. George Massie of Roscoe, Ill., who hasn't seen her son, Fireman Apprentice William "Tom" Massie, 20, since September, 1967, said: "I'm going to hold up our Christmas until he gets home."

In Williamstown, Mass., Mrs. James Shepard, whose husband was a petty officer on the Pueblo, started calling all her neighbors, saying she just had to share the news, even at 4 a.m. "I hope they're not mad," she said later.



Associated Press

The USS Pueblo as it appeared before its capture. The ship presumably will remain in North Korean hands.

Pueblo Crew 'Confessions' Contained Proof of Falsity

By Robert H. Estabrook
Washington Post Foreign Service

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 22—Crewmen on the Pueblo contrived to let American authorities know soon after their capture last Jan. 23 that the confessions extracted by North Korea were false, it has been learned on excellent authority.

They did this by erroneously describing the intelligence ship's positions in such a way that the false information was immediately spotted in Washington.

In several instances the ship would have had to move at much higher speeds than its known maximum of about 12½ knots to reach the "confessed" coordinates from its previous locations.

Knowledge Withheld

But American officials refrained from disclosing this knowledge at the time because they did not want to damage the possibility of starting negotiations with North Korea.

Their major objective was to get the crewmen out of what is regarded as an "out-law state" that does not respect international law, and it was feared that any direct rebuttal might injure the chance.

From monitored North Korean radio broadcasts, Washington authorities knew the Pueblo was in international waters rather than North Korean territorial waters at the time of its capture.

When four North Korean patrol boats sought to force the vessel inside territorial waters for the seizure, the Pueblo's captain, Navy Commander Lloyd Bucher, ordered the engines stopped.

Position When Seized

At the time of the capture, the Pueblo was 15.3 nautical miles from the North Korean island of Ungo-do and 16.3 miles from the Hodo-Pando peninsula, American officials have in-



Three days after Pueblo capture, North Korean released this picture, which it said showed Capt. Lloyd Bucher writing confession that ship entered its waters.

sisted, and Bucher had explicit orders not to approach closer than 13 miles.

North Korea charged that the Pueblo had come within 7.6 miles of shore, a charge repeated by the Soviet Union and Hungary in the Security Council.

But the U.S. monitored at least a dozen North Korean broadcasts which showed that the interception took place outside the 12-mile limit that is claimed by the Pyongyang region. One broadcast from North Korean sub-chaser 35 which accosted the Pueblo gave a position more than 16 miles off shore.

Such information formed the basis for assertions by former American Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg in the Security Council that the Pueblo was captured on the high seas and, so far as was known, had not intruded in North Korean waters.

Original Charges

Originally North Korea charged only that the Pueblo had been captured in territorial waters. Not until some days later did it allege that the electronic surveil-

lance vessel had previously intruded.

At that time, North Korea produced what it said was a chart of the Pueblo's movements. This chart contained some of the palpably false data.

Subsequently Goldberg was very much irritated when then Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara implied in a television interview that the Pueblo might previously have been in North Korean waters.

McNamara 'Superhonest'

Informed officials said later that McNamara was being "superhonest." Although there was not reason to believe the Pueblo had strayed from its course, the U.S. could not be certain because the ship had been under orders to maintain radio silence about its movements over a period of ten days.

Goldberg continued to believe the ship never had intruded.

A few days before its capture, the Pueblo is known to have been surrounded by other North Korean patrol boats but was not molested. This is thought to be one reason why Bucher and the

crew did not expect the ship to be boarded when the actual capture occurred.

Questioning Awaited

Not until the crewmen are questioned can U.S. officials be certain about all the ship's movements. Originally it was thought the log would show this, but North Korea has had ample time to falsify the log.

Just how much of the false information in the confessions and on the chart was deliberately supplied by the crewmen also cannot be known until they are questioned. Presumably most of the language was dictated by North Korea and the crewmen knew that their acquiescence would be interpreted as a sign of duress.

At the start, the Hungarian mission to the U.N. served as a channel for official messages to and from North Korea. On one occasion the Hungarians relayed a suggestion that if the U.S. wanted negotiations it would have to move the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Enterprise farther off the North Korean coast.

Enterprise Shadowed

The Enterprise had been rushed to patrol duty after the capture of the Pueblo. It was shadowed by the Soviet vessel Gidrolog.

Sweden also helped get negotiations started with North Korea. Sweden is a member of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Committee—along with Switzerland, Poland and Czechoslovakia—that was established in the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean war.

Actual details for the crewmen's release, however, were worked out in months of direct meetings between U.S. and North Korean negotiators at Panmunjom, scene of the 1951-53 armistice negotiations.



CMDR. LLOYD M. BUCHER
... captain of Pueblo