

Pueblo Status Still Unknown

ship was converted to her intel-
ligence role in July 1967.

Pentagon, North Korea
Quiet on Whereabouts

By FRED S. HOFFMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) —
What's happened to the USS
Pueblo?

The Pentagon won't tell what
the North Koreans have done
with the small intelligence ship
which earned a sad place in
U.S. history with its capture 11
months ago.

The North Koreans haven't
said either, although they de-
clared it confiscated even as
they released its 82-man crew
Sunday.

Although the United States is
not formally giving up its claim
to the 935-ton vessel, few expect
the Pueblo ever to rejoin the
U.S. fleet.

The Navy estimates it would
cost about \$3.5 million to build
and outfit a replacement.

The Pueblo was towed into
Wonsan harbor after being
boarded by North Korean sai-
lors last Jan. 23. It was learned
in April that a State Depart-
ment official had informed a
congressional committee that
the ship had been moved from
Wonsan but the Pueblo's new lo-
cation was not disclosed.

Asked Monday for a report on
the ship's present whereabouts,
its condition and the use to
which North Korea is putting
it, the Pentagon replied that
this would constitute intelli-
gence information — "there-
fore, we will not comment."

Officials believe that by talk-
ing about the Pueblo's current
status they would enable North

Korea to judge the effectiveness
—or ineffectiveness—of U.S. in-
telligence.

Apart from the sensitive cod-
ing and intelligence-gathering
equipment that was aboard her,

the Pueblo is no great loss to
the U.S. Navy.

Built almost 25 years ago, the
Pueblo served ten years as an
Army cargo vessel. After the
Navy acquired it, the 176-foot

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