

NAVY MAY ACT IN PUEBLO CASE

T-P 1-10-69
Extending Enlistments of
Crew Considered

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP) —
The Navy says it is considering
extending the enlistments of 22
Pueblo crewmen to keep them
in the service until a court of in-
quiry completes its investiga-
tion of the ship's seizure by
North Korea.

The enlistments expired while
the men were in captivity.

Their enlistments already
have been extended 30 days—
dating from their arrival in the
United States on Dec. 23 after 11
months' captivity—but this is
the maximum extension permit-
ted for "administrative and
medical purposes."

To be kept past Jan. 23, the 22
crewmen—who represent more
than a quarter of the intelli-
gence vessel's 82-man crew—ei-
ther must reenlist or be made
parties to the court of inquiry.

At present only one person
has been named a party to the
court—the Pueblo's skipper,
Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher. But a
Navy spokesman said Thursday
that all 22 may be named.

MAY SUBPOENA ANYONE

The court of inquiry, expected

to convene in two to three
weeks, may subpoena anyone to
testify, military or civilian. The
Navy has not said whether it ac-
tually will take testimony from
all 82 crewmen, but presumably
wants them available. While un-
der extension, crewmen receive
25 per cent higher pay.

All the crewmen continue to
undergo debriefings at the naval
hospital here.

Originally expected to last
about two weeks, the debrief-
ings apparently have been pro-
longed by Cmdr. Bucher's weak
condition. The skipper, suffering
from malnutrition and an upper
respiratory infection, began his
debriefings only this week.

The rest of the crew members
started the debriefing process
on Dec. 26, two days after their
arrival.

The court of inquiry is to con-
vene at the Naval Amphibious
Base at nearby Coronado within
a week after the debriefings
end. In the interim, the men will
receive leaves in the San Diego
area.

DATA CONFIDENTIAL

Information gleaned from the
debriefings is confidential, and
is supposed to be related to mat-
ters of security, such as the fate
of the secret equipment and in-
formation aboard the Pueblo
when the ship was seized last
Jan. 23. But Navy officials ac-
knowledge the debriefings have
ranged far afield.