

Pueblo Not Told Of Threat

1-26-69
By George C. Wilson
Washington Post Staff Writer

CORONADO, Calif., Jan. 25—An "intelligence gap" issue was added today to all the other ones surrounding the Pueblo mission as the Navy released a summary of testimony given in secret.

Capt. Thomas L. Dwyer, assistant chief of staff for intelligence at the Naval Command in Japan when the Pueblo was seized, told the Naval Court of Inquiry yesterday afternoon that he did not know the North Koreans had publicly warned the United States against such mission shortly before the ill-fated ship sailed.

Two North Korean broadcasts, one monitored Jan. 6 and the other Jan. 11, warned that "determined countermeasures" would be taken against "U.S. imperialists" boats off the Korean coast.

The Navy summary said that when the court counsel introduced the texts of the broadcasts as part of the proceedings "Dwyer said that he had not seen them."

Dwyer was the top U.S. intelligence officer in the command that dispatched the Pueblo—U.S. Naval Forces Japan.

He is now assistant to the commander at the Naval Intel-

See PUEBLO, A11, Col. 1

PUEBLO, From A1

ligence Command for ocean surveillance and intelligence operations.

Sailed Last Jan. 11

The Pueblo sailed for her spying mission off North Korea the morning of Jan. 11 and was seized the afternoon of Jan. 23 (Korean time).

The Jan. 6 broadcast out of Pyongyang, capital of North Korea, said:

"The U.S. imperialist aggressor army, which has been incessantly committing provoc-

ative acts lately on the sea off the eastern coast, from 0600 this morning again dispatched many armed boats, mingled with fishing boats, under the escort of armed warships into the coastal waters of our side on the eastern coast to perpetrate provocative acts.

"Our naval ships on patrol duty on the spot took necessary countermeasures and detained the vessels involved in the hostile acts. As long as the U.S. imperialist aggressor troops perpetrate provocative acts, our people's army units will take more determined countermeasures against the enemy in the future, too."

It was the North Korean army—not its navy—which boarded the Pueblo after it had surrendered. Also, Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, skipper of the Pueblo, testified this week that the army ran the whole show during his crew's captivity.

Jan. 11 Broadcast

The Jan. 11 North Korean broadcast read into the Pueblo inquiry record said:

"The U.S. imperialist aggressor troops again dispatched from early this morning hundreds of fishing boats and spy boats disguised as fishing boats into the coastal waters of our side off the eastern coast to perpetrate hostile acts.

"This noon our naval ships on patrol duty on the spot detained the vessels involved in the hostile acts. As long as the U.S. imperialist aggressor troops conduct reconnaissance by sending spy boats, our naval ships will continue to take determined countermeasures."

Bucher in the closed session yesterday afternoon said, again according to the Navy, that no briefing he had received before taking command

of the Pueblo had discussed the possibility of armed attacks.

His own counsel—E. Miles Harvey of San Diego—asked that question. This line of questioning indicates that Bucher will try to convince the court of five admirals that he did not violate any instructions in surrendering the Pueblo since none existed for the situation he encountered.

Received Briefings

Bucher earlier in his testimony said he had received briefings on the Pueblo in late

December and through most of January in Hawaii and in the Naval Headquarters in Japan.

Harvey's question illustrates the grayness that has settled over the whole Pueblo affair as the Navy tries to decide what to do about a captain who gave up his ship.

If it had been war, the old Navy tradition of fighting to the last man would have been the obvious guideline. But on this mission, Bucher has testified he was ordered to keep from being provocative; to keep the Pueblo's two .50-calibre machine guns in their canvas covers.

The thrust of Bucher's testimony to date is that he followed the orders he was given for his mission and then, where they left off, followed his own humanitarian instincts.

Navy's Purpose Held

'Facts, Not Scapegoats'

Adm. Thomas H. Moorer said yesterday the Navy "is searching for facts—not scapegoats" in its inquiry into the surrender of the spy ship Pueblo to North Korea.

The Navy's top official tacked the statement onto the end of an address to the American Bar Association in Chicago last night. The Pentagon distributed his statement in the afternoon.

Moorer said the Navy is "deeply troubled" over what he called misinterpretation of a warning by a Navy lawyer to the Pueblo skipper, Cmdr. Lloyd Bucher, that he was suspected of having violated Navy regulations in surrendering his ship without a fight. The lawyer also mentioned the possibility of a court-martial.

Moorer said the court was at that point getting into details of the capture and was legally required to tell Bucher that his testimony could be used against him. It did not reflect any official's judgment on Bucher's conduct, he said.

Moorer pledged to ensure the full rights of all persons appearing before the court. He appealed to the public "to be patient" and to "have full trust" that the inquiry is being carried out by "experienced men of great integrity."