

Pueblo Once Had Orders To Intrude

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The Administration confirmed yesterday that the U.S. Navy intelligence ship Pueblo at one time had been under instructions to probe well within what North Korea considers its territorial waters. North Korea broadcast a report of such instructions earlier in the day.

State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey, who provided the confirmation, added, however, that the United States "continues to believe" that the Pueblo never sailed within that territorial limit.

McCloskey said that the instructions permitting such probes, issued in February, 1966, had been superseded by orders issued on Jan. 5 of this year, just prior to the Pueblo's capture by the North Koreans on Jan. 23. The new orders limited probes to no closer than 13 miles from the North Korean coast. Both sets of orders came from the Honolulu headquarters of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Forces in the Pacific (CINCPAC).

The McCloskey confirmation was news to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which has been investigating the incidents leading to the Pueblo's capture.

Committee sources said they

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assumed both the Pentagon and State Department had complied with the Committee's request for all relevant papers—but this one wasn't among those sent.

Administration officials emphatically denied that the Government, in confirming the North Korean broadcast, was laying the groundwork for an apology to bring the

for an apology to bring the return of the 82 surviving members of the Pueblo's 83-man crew.

The McCloskey statement came as North Korea, after inviting foreign correspondents to hear "confessions of spying" from the Pueblo crew, broadcast the text of the Pueblo's captured sailing instructions from CINCPAC Fleet headquarters.

Even though the broadcast text was not yet in reporters' hands here, McCloskey opened up the subject at his regular noon press briefing.

He said the CINCPAC document of February, 1966, "authorizing surface patrols to the three-mile limit off North Korea" contained "general instructions on conducting reconnaissance operations. It was issued to a great many U.S.

Navy units and was on board the Pueblo."

But then McCloskey added that the 1966 document had been "superseded by the Jan. 5, 1968, sailing order which set a clear limit of 13 miles."

The United States limits its own territorial-water border to three miles and assumes this limit for other nations, unless they specify otherwise. North Korea, however, has at various times claimed territorial waters as far as 12 miles off its land shore.