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# Reds Claim Pueblo Men Admit Guilt

By ROBERT LRU

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea said that the captain of the U. S. intelligence-gathering ship Pueblo admitted to foreign newsmen today that his vessel was "deep" inside North Korean waters when it was captured on Jan. 23.

The North Korean Central News Agency said Capt. Lloyd M. Bucher told the visiting newsmen the Pueblo has "full technical equipment for espionage activities and intruded several times into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to commit espionage activities."

It said Bucher made the remarks in answer to questions put to him during a news conference held for foreign newsmen in North Korea for the Communist regime's 20th

anniversary celebration. It was the first time any of the American crew had been questioned by foreign newsmen.

Twenty of the Pueblo's 81 other crewmen appeared with Bucher at the news conference, the North Koreans said.

Bucher reportedly said the ship's crew confessed to their "grave crimes" and asked the North Koreans to "pardon them and deal with them leniently."

A letter sent to President Johnson in March, which the North Koreans claimed was signed by Bucher and his crew also admitted that the Pueblo was in North Korean waters when it was captured and listed five geographic points at which it said the vessel had trespassed.

North Korea has said it will release the 82 Americans if the U. S. government admits the Pueblo violated North Korean waters and pledges to refrain from such intrusions. U. S. officials say they do not believe the ship crossed into North Korean waters and have proposed an investigation by a neutral party.