

# Navy Pledged to Guard Rights of Pueblo Crew

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The Navy, denying a published report, says all 82 surviving members of the USS Pueblo crew will be informed of their legal rights if and when they are released by North Korea.

The Navy issued its statement after the Los Angeles Times said crew members would be questioned by military officials before being advised of their legal rights.

The times told of a 100-page Navy document that it said had been handed out to officials involved in the questioning. The paper said the document carried instructions not to mention legal rights before the first phase of interrogation — presumably dealing with the key question of

whether the spy ship actually entered North Korean waters before being seized Jan. 23.

In response, the Navy called attention to a directive issued June 8 by Paul H. Nitze, deputy defense secretary.

"Returnees will be accorded all of the legal rights and privileges to which they are entitled as military personnel at every stage of processing, including intelligence debriefing," the directive said.

"In view of the physical and/or psychological pressures to which they may have been subjected, particular care must be taken to ensure that their rights and privileges are in no way compromised or diluted," it added.