

23 JAN 68

A110WX

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BULLETIN

With Seoul Raiders 2nd Lead

WASHINGTON ap - Secretary of State Dean Rusk said today the United States is taking immediate steps "through the channels that are available to us" to obtain release of the naval vessel Pueblo and its crew from Communist North Korea, which seized the ship late Monday.

Rusk described the North Korean capture of the vessel and its crew in international water as "a matter of utmost gravity."

Navy sources said records indicate the Pueblo is the first U.S. naval vessel captured at sea since the Civil War.

CR1143aes Jan 23

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A113WX

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URGENT

With Seoul Raiders add.

Washington With Seoul Raiders 2nd lead A110WX add: war.

The Pueblo, a Navy intelligence auxiliary ship, was boarded by an armed party of North Koreans some 25 miles from the North Korean mainland. It was reported taken to Wonsan.

There were 83 men, including six officers, 75 enlisted men and two civilians aboard the Pueblo, the Pentagon said.

Rusk gave the first, on-the-record U.S. reaction in opening remarks to the Senate Youth Forum, a group of young people discussing foreign policy at the State Department.

He said: "Just last night a very serious incident occurred off North Korea when North Korean forces seized a small U.S. naval vessel and took it into port.

"This is a matter of the utmost gravity," Rusk said,

"and we're following up on that through the channels that are available to us to obtain the immediate release of the vessel and her crew."

The Pentagon said 4th graf

CR1149aes Jan 23

A127

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URGENT

With Seoul Raiders 4th Lead

WASHINGTON AP - North Korean patrol boats captured a U.S. Navy intelligence ship late Monday off the North Korean coast-an incident the White House described today as "a very serious situation."

The Pentagon said the seizure occurred in international waters and some members of Congress described it as "an act of piracy" and a "clear violation of international law."

The United States asked Russia to deliver to North Korea an urgent request for the immediate release of the naval intelligence ship Pueblo and its crew.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk described the seizure of the vessel as a matter of "utmost gravity."

President Johnson, Rusk and other top policy makers were expected to consider what further action the United States might take, at a White House meeting this afternoon.

MORE

LT&JC105pes Jan 23

A128WX

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URGENT

WASHINGTON - With Seoul Raiders 4th lead A127WX add: Afternoon.

The Pueblo has a crew of 83.

Navy sources said records indicate the Pueblo, an intelligence auxiliary ship, is the first U.S. naval vessel captured at sea since the U.S. Civil War.

The Pentagon said an armed party of North Koreans boarded the Pueblo some 25 miles from the North Korean mainland in the Sea of Japan after surrounding it with four patrol boats. It was reported taken to Wonsou.

The crew included six officers, 75 enlisted men and two civilians.

"This is a matter of the utmost gravity and we're following up on that through the channels that are available to us to obtain the immediate release of the vessel and the crew," Rusk said.

President Johnson, who was awakened with the news at 2 a.m. today, discussed the matter at a morning breakfast with Democratic congressional leaders.

State Department press officer Robert J. McCloskey, announcing the appeal for release through Russia, said in response to questioning that no deadline for a North Korean reply had been set "but the sooner the better."

McCloskey declared he was "saying categorically" the ship was outside the 12 mile limit which North Korea claims for its territorial waters. He also denied that the vessel was acting in a provocative manner.

MORE

JC108pes Jan. 23

A129Wx

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URGENT

WASHINGTON - With Seoul Raiders 4th Lead A128WX 2nd add: manner. Well informed officials reported that a wide range of U.S. ACTIONS WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

North Korea, in announcing the seizure in a broadcast intercepted by U.S. monitors, charged that the Pueblo was "an armed spy boat . . . which intruded into the territorial waters" of North Korea, carrying out hostile activities.

Some officials expected the United States to call an immediate session of the mixed armistice commission which meets at Panmunjom, Korea. It grew out of the 1953 Korean truce.

The range of actions under consideration was understood to include the possibility of a retaliatory strike against a military target or targets in North Korea, although State Department officials generally soft pedaled that speculation in the first hours after the seizure of the ship became known.

Rusk said the Pueblo has operated in the Sea of Japan off the Korean coast for the last two weeks.

In response to questions he refused to say what he thought the North Koreans are trying to accomplish by an action which top U.S. officials consider extremely provocative and therefore extremely dangerous.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield, of Montana, said the action seemed to him to be "a clear violation of international law."

House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford, of Michigan, contended: "If the vessel was cruising in international waters, as was apparently the case, there is no justification whatever for the action taken by the North Koreans."

Rep. William H. Bates, R-Miss., ranking GOP member of the House Armed Services Committee, called the seizure "an act of piracy."

The Pentagon said 1st graf A080Wx.

JC114pes Jan. 23

A126

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Pueblo-Broadcast 310

TOKYO AP - North Korea charged today U.S. troops in South Korea fired "thousands of shells and bullets" across Korea's demilitarized zone and infiltrated an armed "spy" ship into North Korean coastal waters.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency, in a broadcast monitored here, also accused the United States of committing "a grave provocative act."

It said North Korean naval craft "on routine duty" seized the U.S. ship Pueblo off Wonsan in the Japan Sea. It said the ship was "armed" and all personnel aboard were taken prisoners. "Our naval craft on routine duty captured the armed ship of the U.S. impen

"Our naval craft on routine duty captured the armed ship of the U.S. imperialist aggressor army and all the aggressors aboard it," the broadcast said.

It added the North Korean naval craft resolutely put down "the resistance of these hateful U.S. imperialist provocateurs."

The Communist broadcast pictured the U.S. and South Korean governments as being "thrown into a complete discomfiture by th activities of armed guerrillas rapidly intensifying of late in South Korea."

It vcharged that the United States and South

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The Communist broadcast pictured the U.S. and South Korean governments as being "thrown into a complete discomfiture by the activities of armed guerrillas rapidly intensifying of late in South Korea."

It charged that the United States and South Korea are "becoming more frantic in provocative maneuvers along the military demarcation line and the eastern and western coasts."

It also said the United States carried out "provocative" acts in "a fit of frenzy after armed guerrillas mounted a surprise attack on the enemy in the heart of Seoul."

The South Korean government has announced that South Korean police intercepted 31 North Korean armed guerrillas Sunday night in Seoul before they carried out a mission to assassinate President Chung Hee Park and other key South Korean leaders.

The Communist broadcast also said, "However wild the U.S. imperialists and Chung Hee Park traitorous clique may run, they will be totally crushed each time in face of the water-tight defenses of the heroic Korean People's Army."

"And neither war racket nor suppression will be able to put down the anti-U.S., antipuppet struggle of the patriotic South Korean people fiercely raging like a prairie fire."

Pyongyang has never admitted that it is sending saboteurs and guerrillas across the armistice line into South Korea.

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With Seoul Raiders 4th Lead Correction

WASHINGTON - In With Seoul Raiders 4th lead 2nd add A129WX, to correct "Miss." to "Mass." sub following for ninth last graf: Koreans."

Rep. William H. Bates, R-Mass., ranking GOP member of the House Armed Services Committee, called the seizure "an act of piracy."

JC134pes Jan. 23

A006

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URGENT

U.N.-Pueblo

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. AP - U.S. Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg "expressed concern" to U.N. Secretary-General U Thant Tuesday about North Korea's seizure of a U.S. patrol vessel, the Pueblo.

Goldberg so informed correspondents after paying an hour's call on Thant. In reply to a question, he said he did not ask for any U.N. help in getting the vessel released.
p151pes jan 23

A007WX

eeWX

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WASHINGTON - With Seoul Raiders 4th lead A129WX third add:piracy."

At the State Department, McCloskey was asked why the Pueblo was not given U.S. air cover when it was operating in an area of great U.S. military power-the Sea of Japan.

McCloskey said he could not answer that or any other questions having to do with the vessel directly. He said the Department of Defense was the source for information on what happened.

McCloskey confirmed that in addition to the appeal through the Soviet government-which was handled by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow-the United States would make the immediate release request directly to North Korea through a meeting of the Military Armistice Commission at Panmunjom.

A commission meeting is scheduled tonight & P.M. EST in response to an earlier U.S. proposal for a session to take up the infiltration earlier this week of 31 North Korean agents into South Korea.

McCloskey's statement on the Pueblo incident:
"I am authorized to state that the United States government views this action by North Korea with utmost gravity.

"We have asked the Soviet Union to convey to North Korea our urgent request for the immediate release of the vessel and crew.

"The matter will also be raised directly with the North Koreans in a meeting of the Military Armistice Commission. We will of course use any other channels which might be helpful.

"I wish to reemphasize the seriousness with which we view this flagrant North Korean action against the United States naval vessel on the high seas.

McCloskey said there has been a big increase in North Korean-originated incidents along the dividing line between North and South Korea.

The Pentagon etc 1st graf of A080WX
JK157pes Jan. 23

A015WX

wyyf

With Seoul Raiders correction

Washington With Seoul Raiders 4th lead 3rd add A007WX to fix time sub for 4th graf: Panmunjom.

A commission meeting is shculed tonight 9 p.m. EST in response to an earlier U.S.

A commission meeting is scheduled tonight 9 p.m. EST in response to an earlier U.S. proposal for a session to take up the infiltration earlier this week of 31 North Korean agents into South Korea.

McCloskey's statement 5th graf A007WX.
C2233pes Jan. 23

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A011WX

URGENT

With Seoul Raiders 5th Lead

WASHINGTON AP - A U.S. Navy intelligence ship with 83 men aboard was captured late Monday by North Korean patrol boats, in an incident the White House described Tuesday as "very serious."

While steps were ordered to seek release of the ship, the USS Pueblo, and its crew, grave concern was expressed in Congress as well as at the White House and State Department.

"Obviously an act of war," Rep. Bob Wilson, R-Calif., called the seizure.

And Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said it was "a very severe breach of international law that almost amounts to an act of war."

It was regarded as far more serious than the Israeli shelling last summer of another American communications ship that had ventured close to the fighting in the Israel-Arab war.

Rep. William H. Bates of Massachusetts, ranking Republican on the House Armed Services C

ommittee, called the Korean incident "a dastardly act of piracy."

And Rep. Durward G.M. Hall R-Mo., said President Johnson should make it clear the American ship must be released "or North Korea will suffer inevitable and dire consequences."

Chairman J. W. Fulbright, D-Aark., of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, commented "we got caught unexpectedly."

Fulbright said intelligence-gathering activities of the type engaged in by the Pueblo "certainly exposes" the United States to incidents of this kind.

He added the incident was very serious "if, as reported, the ship was on the high seas."

The Defense Department said flatly that it was in international waters.

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The United States 4th lead A127WX AT 2TH GRAF.
JA215pes Jan 23

A024WX

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Washington Pueblo Bjt NL A019WX insert after 7th graf, counting A022WX insert: Monday.

One report said four Americans were wounded, one critically.

The U.S. statement, 8th graf

CR334pes Jan 23

A025WX

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With Seoul Raiders correction

Washingt9th Seoul Raiders 5th leae.

Washington With Seoul Raiders 5th lead A011WX to fix Wonsan sub for 18th graf, 3rd graf A128WX add: Civil War.

The Pentagon said an armed party of North Koreans boarded the Pueblo some 25 miles from the North Korean mainland in the Sea of Japan after surrounding it with four patrol boats.

It was reported taken to Wonsan.

The crew included 19th graf.

JK337pes Jan. 23

AO22WX

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Pueblo NL Insert 100

Washington Pueblo Bjt NL AO19WX insert after 2nd graf: angrily.
Rep. Bob Wilson, R-Calif., called the seizure "obviously an act of war" and Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., said it was a very serious breach of international law that "almost amounts to an act of war."

Sen. J. W. Fulbright, D-Ark., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said intelligence-gathering activity of the kind engaged in by the Pueblo "certainly exposes" the United States to such incidents, and commented "We got caught unexpectedly."

Fulbright said the incident is very serious "if, as reported, the ship was on the high seas."

The United States, 3rd graf

WE323pes Jan 23

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With PUEBLO

SAN DIEGO, Calif. AP - The U.S. Navy ship PUEBLO is her husband's first command, Rose Bucher said Tuesday.

Her husband, Lt. Cmdr. Lloyd Bucher, put the ship into commission last May at Bremerton, Wash., and wrote her recently that he expected to be assigned to the San Diego area this spring, she said.

So she and their two sons, Mark, 15, and Mike, 13, came to San Diego from their home in Jefferson, Mo., to await his return.

She said that she had not had official word from the Navy about the capture of the ship.

"The ship is home-ported in Yokosuka, Japan, and most of the dependents are there. Maybe that's why I haven't heard much," she said.

Mrs. Bucher said her husband, 38, is a graduate of the high school at Boys Town, Neb., and enlisted in the Navy before attending the University of Nebraska.

"He received his commission in 1953 and was graduated from submarine school in 1955," she said.

Mrs. Bucher said she last heard from her husband about a week ago. His letter dated Jan. 10 said that the ship was about to go to sea.

"I'm concerned about the safety of the crew," Mrs. Bucher said. "I'm sure the Navy is doing everything it can, but I can't help but worry. Now all I can do is hope and pray for his safety. It's in God's hands."

WD123pps Jan 23

A036

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War Extension Bjt 360, 2 takes total 610

AN AP News Analysis

By WILLIAM L. RYAN

AP SPECIAL Correspondent

Korea . . . Laos . . . Vietnam . . .

Is there a connection between what is happening in these hotspots of Asia and the rising pressure for Vietnam peace talks? With the extension of the Vietnam war beginning to look more and more like a reality, there could well be a link.

Both the United States and Communist North Vietnam deny playing major military roles in Laos, but the activities of both obviously have been stepped up considerably.

Thousands of North Vietnamese regulars are reported operating in Laos. On the American side, a major share of the air war is being carried out against Communist routes from North Vietnam through Laos along the Ho Chi Minh trail.

At the same time the United States has conceded that "in the heat of battle" its troops penetrated 75 yards into Cambodia in pursuit of Communist forces. Washington long has complained of Viet Cong sanctuary in Cambodia.

Moscow has been issuing a series of rumbling warnings, typified by a statement last month: if the United States stepped up its activities in Laos or Cambodia, the Americans would "bear the entire responsibilities for all consequences of such actions."

Now in Korea comes new pressure. North Koreans infiltrate South Korea, their purported mission to assassinate its president and thus spread confusion. North Koreans, the United States charged, seized a U.S. naval intelligence ship and produced a very serious situation. And North Korea claimed Americans in South Korea fired "thousands of shells and bullets" across the demilitarized zone.

All this builds up anxiety and pressure over the possibility of widened Asian war, which all sides profess to dread.

While this is going on, elements of the important intellectual community of South Vietnam, from which leadership must spring, are becoming more restive. The 17 Roman Catholic bishops of the country early this year issued an impassioned appeal:

"In the name of God, stop! They called for a halt in the U.S. bombing of North Vietnam and immediate peace talks.

This week 65 South Vietnamese university professors pleaded with all belligerents to extend a coming lunar new year cease-fire indefinitely as a prelude to peace talks. Other intellectuals are circulating a plan for a coalition in the South to include the Communists.

MORE

M43OPES JAN 23

A037

UNDATED Take 2 War extension bjt A036: Communists

310

The United States faces a presidential election campaign at a time when criticism of U.S. policy is mounting. Soviet and British leaders are talking about Vietnam.

It should be no surprise if the Communists scent a political victory. This could be a key to what is happening in Laos, with events elsewhere adding to the general atmosphere of pressure.

Communist forces in Laos, having captured Nam Bac in the valley commanding approaches to the royal capital at Luang Prabang, are poised to push their advantage, should they choose. To stop them and their North Vietnamese allies, the Americans would require huge forces. The Communists of course may not want at this time to risk diverting so much from their effort in Vietnam.

But if there is a chance of peace talks, perhaps dependent upon unconditional cessation of American bombing, Communist forces in Laos could hope to be in position to get away with the lion's share of the spoils. They may, in fact, even now be in a position to dominate all Laos.

Experience in Indochina has shown that when the Communists have bitten off a chunk of real estate they are unlikely to give it up. After the 1954 Geneva agreement, they entrenched themselves in two northern provinces of Laos and in violation of the accords forbade access to the Vientiane government. After the 1962 agreements averted a threatened big-power clash in Southeast Asia, the Communists resumed their nibbling. Once entrenched in what they called "liberated" areas in southern Laos, they denied that the Vientiane government had any right to do anything about it.

In the background, even though maintaining its image of peace-seeker, Moscow encourages the Indochinese Communists with its propaganda, as it probably will support the charges of the North Koreans against the United States. The dangers in Asia thus are obvious. Once again, then, a situation could be building which could threaten a big-power confrontation and lead to talks.

M456PES JAN 23

A038WX

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With Seoul Raiders 5th Lead Insert

WASHINGTON In With Seoul Raiders 5th lead A011WX, to cover developments, insert following after 6th graf counting previous insert A017WX : Arab war.

The Pentagon identified the Pueblo's captain as Lt. Cmdr. ,loyd Bucher of Jefferson City, Mo., the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Bucher of Pocatello, Idaho.

Rep. William etc., picking up.

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The Pentagon identified the Pueblo's captain as Lt. Cmdr. Lloyd Bucher of Jefferson City, Mo., the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Bucher of Pocatello, Idaho.

Rep. William etc., picking up.

JA439pes Jan. 23

A040

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Rpt a031 Washington Insert with Seoul Raiders and 1st
graf A032 Athens Greek Bjt:

A031

INSERT

With Seoul Raiders Insert
Washington with Seoul Raiders 5th lead a011wx insert after
21st graf, 6th graf a128wx add: congressional leaders.
George Christian, Johnson's press secretary who said the
White House considered the incident "a very serious
situation," told newsmen Johnson had been awakened by Walt
W. Rostow, the President's special assistant for national
security affairs.
State Department press 22nd graf.
JA40SPES JAN 23

A069WX

yyxqyyWX

With Seoul Raiders Correction
WASHINGTON-With Seoul Raiders, A053WX, subbing to clarify.
The Pentagon identified the Pueblo's captain as Cmdr. Lloyd
M. Bucher. Bucher is the husband of Mrs. Rose Bucher,
now living in San Diego, Calif. She said the family previously
lived in Jefferson City, Mo.
Rep. William picking up A011WX
RZ704pes Jan. 23

A106

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URGENT

With Pueblo

TOKYO AP - Japan's Kyodo news service, quoting a
North Korean broadcast, said Wednesday that Communist navy
ships attacked the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo on Tuesday
and "killed and wounded several crewmen of the intruding
U.S. ship."

It was the first mention of fatalities aboard the vessel.
In Washington, the Defense Department said the vessel
had a crew of 83.

Kyodo said the report was based on a broadcast by the official
Korean Central News Agency-KCNA-obtained
from another Pyongyang government agency based in Tokyo, the
Korean news service.

Other Tokyo monitors reported they had not picked up the report.
The report did not mention any numbers of dead and wounded,
but said "more than 80 were captured."
DB945pes Jan. 23

A117

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With Pueblo Correction

TOKYO With Pueblo A106 to delete Pyongyang reference
sub 4th graf: 83.

Kyodo said the report was based on a broadcast by the official
Korean Central News Agency as obtained from the Korean
News Service, a pro-North Korea monitoring agency
based in Tokyo.
Other 5th graf
M1018PES JAN 23

A140

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Americans-Korean

SEOUL, Korea AP - Three American soldiers were slightly wounded early Wednesday when they exchanged fire with four North Korean intruders in the western sector of the Korean demilitarized zone, Korean military sources said.

American guards from the 2nd U.S. Infantry Division discovered four North Koreans infiltrating south through a fence barrier erected along the truce zone, the sources said.

A spokesman for the U.S. Army said a few American soldiers were "very slightly" wounded. He said he had no detailed information on the incident.

SS1154pes Jan 23

A141

ztu vzt

With Pueblo lead add-No Pickup A136

TOKYO With Pueblo Lead A136 add: Korea."

North Korea has repeatedly accused the United States of planning to provoke another war in Korea by violating North Korean territorial waters and provoking land raids.

The North Koreans said the Pueblo was engaged in "espionage activities." The news agency added: "This vicious provocation act of the U.S. imperialist aggressor army is the most odious provocation ever committed by it since the 1953 armistice."

The incident occurred off the northern port of Wonsan.

The news agency gave the location as 39.17 degrees 4 minutes north latitude and 127.46 degrees 9 minutes east longitude. This would have placed the Pueblo closer to the coast than the position reported by the U.S. Defense Department-127 degrees 53.3 minutes east longitude and 39 degrees 25 minutes north latitude.

SS1157pes Jan 23

A144WZ

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Pueblo 5th NL Sub

WASHINGTON-Pueblo 5th NL A138WX, sub 3rd and 4th grafs with the following to update: serious."

North Korea was quoted as broadcasting it "killed or wounded" several Pueblo crewmen when the North Koreans "returnec" fire from the American vesse.

The Pentagon said it had no knowledge of any fatalities and had declared earlier that the Pueblo's wqapons were not used.

The American 5th graf

GG1215aes Jan 23