
Rpt 1st graf Washington Pueblo chronology A071

WASHINGTON AP - The Pentagon has released this chronology of the seizure Tuesday of the USS Pueblo by North Korean naval units in the Sea of Japan. All times given are Eastern Standard.

-10 p.m.: 2nd graf
IS933aes Jan24 1968

A118WX

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Congress-Ship Seizure Lead 200

By JACK BELL

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON AP - Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana said today the United States must not go off half-cocked with military retaliation for the North Korean seizure of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo.

"We ought to keep our shirts on and not go off half-cocked until we know more about the details of this incident," Mansfield told an informal news conference.

"In the gravity of the situation, we should not let our emotions take over. The information we have on the incident still is quite sketchy. There will be many questions raised about it.

"We should continue our diplomatic efforts through the Soviet Union to obtain release of the ship. We should not take military action now."

Sen. James B. Pearson, R-Kan., a former Navy flier, said he hopes that reports are true that much of the electronic equipment aboard the ship was destroyed before it was boarded by the North Koreans.

A major question etc picking up with previous A001WX at 2nd graf.

LT1238pes Jan. 24

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BULLETIN

Pueblo-North Korea 2nd lead

WASHINGTON AP - White House sources said Wednesday efforts to arrange a settlement of the Pueblo issue through contacts with the Soviet Union "have not had satisfactory results."

The Pueblo, a U.S. intelligence ship, and the 83 Americans aboard were captured Monday night by North Korean patrol boats.

The settlement efforts will continue, the White House sources said, and press secretary George Christian emphasized that the United States still is hopeful "that the matter can be settled through diplomatic channels."

R2105pes Jan 24

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Washington-Pueblo-North Korea 2nd lead A002WX add: channels.

However, Christian asserted that the American government "is organized and planning under the President's direction to deal with the matter"-indicating, it seemed, that both diplomatic and military alternatives were under intensive study.

Christian reported that Johnson and his top advisers have been meeting regularly since the gravity of the situation became apparent.

He said such meetings-including a full scale session with the National Security Council-would continue through the day.

In response to a question, Christian said he would just have to wait and see whether Johnson himself might make a public statement later Wednesday.

The White House sources said "we have not had satisfactory results from the contact with the Soviet union," which has been asked by the United States to serve as a go-between with North Korea. However, they said they expected the contacts to continue.

Christian took a dim view, also, of the turn-down response by the North Koreans as expressed at Panmunjom, Korea. He labeled it "cynical and not in accord with the facts."

Prior to the comments at the White House, other sources reported that the commander of the Pueblo ordered top secret codes and electronic gear destroyed as the North Koreans boarded his ship.

The disclosure etc., A096WX lead at 2nd graf.

RZ110pes Jan. 24

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Congress-Ship Seizure Lead

By JACK BELL

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON AP - Secretary of State Dean Rusk said Wednesday the North Korean seizure of a Navy intelligence ship could be described as "an act of war in terms of the category of actions to be so construed."

He made the comment to newsmen who asked for comment on statements by some members of Congress that seizure of the Pueblo by North Korean patrol boats Monday night constituted an act of war.

Rusk called it a major breach of international law.

"I would not object to designating this as an act of war in terms of the category of actions to be so construed,"

Rusk said. "My advice to the North Koreans is to cool it. There have been enough of these incidents . . ."

Rusk said he felt the North Koreans would be "well advised to pull back here."

He talked with newsmen after a lengthy closed meeting with the House Foreign Affairs Committee on a wide range of topics including the ship seizure.

The secretary, in response to questions, declined to discuss any future course of action. He said the United States intends to get the ship back.

"I'm not discussing the future in any shape or form," he said.

Rusk said when the seizure became known this country got in touch with the North Koreans to get the ship back.

"We would like to see the Russians give us some help in this," Rusk said but added that he did not know what the situation would be.

White House sources reported meanwhile that efforts to work through the Russians "have not had satisfactory results," but the diplomatic efforts will continue.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana said meanwhile the United States must not go off half cocked.

"We ought, 2nd graf A118WX lead

Make above 2nd lead

JC116pes Jan. 24

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WASHINGTON-Pueblo-North Korea 2nd Lead A002-A003WX 2nd
add: facts.

Meanwhile, a four-ship Navy task force including the carrier Enterprise cruised toward North Korea.

Christian told White House reporters that "according to the best information that we have," the Pueblo definitely was in international waters when it was seized.

North Korea contends it was intruding in its territorial waters.

Christian, in effect, coupled the ship seizure with the foiled conspiracy in Seoul to assassinate South Korean President Chung Hee Park.

"These are extremely serious questions," he said.

Later, in response to a question, he said he did not know if the two incidents were related.

He also declined to speculate on whether the ship seizure might have been a Communist diversionary tactic aimed at putting the United States in a ticklish spot when a great part of its armed forces is engaged in Vietnam.

The Pentagon etc. A096WX lead at third graf.

LT120pes Jan. 24

A122

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Pueblo-Koreans

TOKYO AP - North Korea's official news agency claimed today the captain of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo has admitted his vessel was inside North Korea's claimed territorial waters when seized Monday night.

The Korean Central News Agency, in a broadcast, monitored here, distributed what it called "the confession" of Lloyd Bucher, captain of the USS Pueblo.

It quoted Bucher, 38, as saying, "I have no excuse whatsoever for my criminal act as my ship intruded deep into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea and was captured by the naval patrol crafts of the Korean People's Army in their self-defense action while conducting the criminal espionage activities.

"The crime committed by me and my men is entirely indelible."

p1255pes / jan 24

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TOKYO Pueblo-Koreans A122 add: indelible."

"My ship had been sent to Sasebo, Japan, to execute assignments given by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

"On Dec. 2 last, we received assignments at the port of Sasebo from Rear Adm. Frank A. Johnson, U.S. Navy commander in Japan, to conduct military espionage activities on the far eastern region of the Soviet Union and then on the off-shore areas and coastal areas of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"Through such espionage activities, my ship detected the military installations set up along the coasts of the Socialist countries and submitted the materials to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency."

The purported statement said Bucher recently was given "another important mission by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, that is, to detect the areas along the far east of the Soviet Union and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." It asserted the Pueblo was disguised "as one engaged in researches on oceanic electronics."

"It was on Jan. 16, 1968, that we entered the coastal waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea via the Soviet maritime province," the alleged statement continued.

"In accordance with the instructions we had received, my ship was on the utmost alert and observed the ascertained the depth of water, current, water temperature, sea basin, salt density and water transparency of the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with radar and various kinds of observatory instruments in a clandestine manner at Chongjin, Wonsan and several other points, and detected the radar network, accommodation capacities of the ports, the number of the incoming and outgoing vessels and maneuverability of the naval vessels of the Korean People's Army.

"Furthermore we spied on various military installations and the distribution of industries and the deployment of armed forces along the east coast areas and sailed up to the point 7.6 miles off Rodo when the navy patrol crafts of the Korean People's Army appeared.

"We were on the alert instantly and tried to escape, firing at the navy patrol crafts of the People's Army.

"But the situation became more dangerous for us and thus one of my men was killed, another heavily wounded and two others lightly wounded.

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Korean-Pueblo Bjt NL 400 up

By K. C. HWANG

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL AP - North Korea broadcast Wednesday "a confession" from the captain of the USS Pueblo, quoting him as saying he was spying for the Central Intelligence Agency and was deep inside North Korea's territorial waters when his ship was captured.

The statement concluded with a reference to "parents and wives and children" waiting anxiously at home for the Pueblo crew's release. The fact that the North Koreans included that seemed to raise at least the possibility that the release was being considered.

The English-language text of an 800-word statement attributed to Cmdr. Lloyd Mark Bucher, commander of the intelligence ship, said he spied on the ports of Chonjin and Wonsan, "detected the radar network, accommodation capacities of the ports," the n.i

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North Korean patrol ships opened fire on the Pueblo, seized her and the 83-man crew, and took her

The English-language text of an 800-word statement attributed to Cmdr. Lloyd Mark Bucher, commander of the intelligence ship, said he spied on the ports of Chonjin and Wonsan, "detected the radar network, accommodation capacities of the ports," the number of ships entering and leaving and the maneuverability of North Korean naval craft.

North Korean patrol ships opened fire on the Pueblo, seized her and the 83-man crew, and took her into the east coast port of Wonsan.

The statement attributed to Bucher said one crewman was killed and three were wounded. While under attack, the Pueblo had radioed that four were wounded.

The statement as reported by the Korean Central News Agency used several examples of stereotyped phraseology that are familiar in Communist popaganda, leading to speculation as to the circumstances under which it was made. The North Korean broadcast gave no clue.

At one point the statement said:

"My crime committed by me and my men is entirely indelible."

This terminology was not expanded. One definition of

"indelible" denotes inability to wash away or blot out something.

"I have no excuse whatsoever for my criminal act as my ship intruded deep into the territorial waters of the Democratic Republic of North Korea and was captured by the naval patrol craft of the Korean People's Army in their self-defense action while conducting the criminal espionage activities," the statement said.

At the conclusion, the statement quoted Bucher as expressing hope that he and his crew "will be forgiven leniently" by North Korea, and saying: "Our parents and wives and children at home are anxiously waiting for us to return home in safety."

This was the gist of the statement attributed to Bucher:

His ship was sent to Sasebo, Japan, to carry out assignments given by the Central Intelligence Agency "to detect the areas along the far east of the Soviet Union and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

The ship was disguised as one engaged in oceanic research and left the port of Sasebo.

MORE

LS408pes Jan24

AO31

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SEOUL Take 2 Korean Pueblo AO30: Sasebo 460

"It was on Jan. 16, 1968, that we entered the coastal waters of the Democratic Republic of Korea via the Soviet maritime province."

The Pueblo made ocean tests and observations but also spied on the ports and on various military installations and the deployment of armed forces along the east coast, he was quoted.

The statement said when the North Korean naval craft appeared, the Pueblo opened fire and tried to escape—contrary to the Pentagon version that the ship did not use its two machine guns.

"But the situation became more serious for us, and thus one of my men was killed, another heavily wounded and two others lightly wounded," the statement continued. "We had no way out and were captured by the navy patrol craft . . .

"Having been captured now, I say frankly that our act was a criminal act which flagrantly violated the armistice agreement and it was a sheer act of aggression."

There was an entirely different version of the incident when the United States called a meeting of the Military Armistice Commission at Panmunjom and demanded the release of the Pueblo.

Rear Adm. John V. Smith, the senior delegate, accused the Communists of "criminal boarding" and seizing the Pueblo in international waters.

Maj. Gen. Park Choong-kook, the senior North Korean delegate, answered with a tirade contending the Pueblo was in territorial waters on a spy mission.

There was speculation that the seizure of the Pueblo was designed to divert U.S. forces from the war in Vietnam. North Korea long has been clamoring for other Communist nations to aid the Communist forces there.

President Chung Hee Park instructed his aides to work closely with U.S. authorities for the return of the Pueblo.

As Park met for the second time in 24 hours with his top security aides, all the South Korean armed forces were placed on combat alert in connection with the Pueblo's capture Monday.

U.S. Ambassador William J. Porter told Premier Chung Il-kwon that the U.S. government had decided to take certain measures.

Korean sources said the measures included dispatch of the 75,000-ton nuclear-powered carrier Enterprise and three destroyers to the Wonsan area. They reported the Enterprise will take up a station at the edge of territorial waters 12 miles from Wonsan.

The Pueblo incident did not disturb South Korea in its extensive mop-up operation against remnants of a 31-man Communist assassination group that invaded Seoul on Sunday to assassinate President Park.

U.S. and South Korean troops killed 10 of the infiltrators Wednesday, bringing the total number of Communists dead since Sunday to 16. One was captured.

The latest enemy casualty was reported Wednesday evening in the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division area south of the Imjin River, where American and Korean troops were conducting a joint sweep.

A South Korean army regimental commander, Col. Lee Ik-soo, was killed in the action Wednesday, bringing the death toll of South Koreans in the series of incidents to nine.

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Pueblo-Koreans Insert 120

TOKYO In Pueblo-Koreans A122-A013, to amplify, insert the following parenthetically after seventh graf: Agency.

Bucher's alleged confession was also recorded by U.S. monitors and made available in Washington. There it was noted the document ended with a virtual appeal that the captain and his crew should be permitted to return home. The closing paragraphs of the document as recorded by U.S. monitors:

"I and my crew have perpetrated a grave criminal act, but our parents and wives and children at home are anxiously waiting for us to return home safe.

"Therefore, we only hope, and it is the greatest desire of myself and all my crew, that we will be forgiven leniently by the government of the democratic Peoples Republic of Korea."

The purported etc 8th graf
JA320pes Jan 24

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North Korea Bjt 300 2 takes total 720

An AP News Analysis

By WILLIAM L. RYAN

AP Special Correspondent

Was Communist North Korea's seizure of a U.S. naval intelligence vessel a challenge to the Soviet Union as well as the United States?

This is a possibility which may dictate a cautious U.S. approach to a situation which could produce a world crisis as perilous as the Cuban missile showdown of 1962.

For a long time, North Korea's regime has been publicly grumbling about the continued presence of U.S. forces in South Korea, implying from time to time that the Soviet Union by no means was doing all it could about the situation.

If the North Koreans intended to maneuver Soviet power into a more active espousal of their cause, they may have considered that the time should be now, when U.S. forces are thinly spread around the world and the Americans are deeply committed in Southeast Asia.

The North Korean Communist party, while publicly bowing to Moscow's ascendancy in world communism, has chosen to straddle the fence in the feud between pro-Moscow and pro-Peking elements of the movement.

The party in 1966 issued what many interpreted as a declaration of independence from both sides so far as the basic dispute was concerned. This however, did not prevent the North Koreans from complaining frequently to Moscow about the situation on their peninsula. The grumbling grew into a debate in the pages of the Soviet Communist newspaper Pravda.

Writing in connection with the Bolshevik anniversary last November, President Choe Yong-kon of the North Korean Politburo pointedly told the Russians: "Aggression of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam is directed not only against the Vietnamese people, but is a challenge to the socialist countries and the liberation struggle, and a threat to peace in the whole world."

MORE

IS431pes Jan24

Choe argued that all Communists were obliged to step up the struggle against "U.S. imperialism" everywhere. Pravda, in the same edition, took another view. It conceded the world situation was perilous. But it noted that despite this, the U.S.S.R. was giving first priority to internal economic building and going forward with "revolutionary optimism." It implied that mighty Soviet economic power would be decisive enough without the risk of a showdown with the United States.

For 18 years, the North Korean regime has waited impatiently for a chance to dominate South Korea.

Its first big gamble failed. On Sunday, June 24, 1950, North Korean tanks plunged across the 38th Parallel which, since World War II and the end of Japanese occupation, had divided North and South. The United States and allied nations, under the banner of the United Nations, managed to throw the North Koreans back into their own territory. Then, in November 1950, hundreds of thousands of Red Chinese "volunteers" swarmed across the Yalu River to drive back the U.N. advance.

On June 23, 1951, almost precisely the anniversary of the war's start, the Soviet Union proposed truce talks. These dragged on two years amid some of the war's bloodiest fighting. Finally, July 27, 1953, an armistice agreement was reached. Once again, the 38th Parallel became the agreed dividing line.

In recent times, North Korea has urged its people to be ready for yet another war for the South. It appeared to goad and nag the Soviet Union, while at the same time keeping the Red Chinese at arm's length.

The big question now is whether the Soviet Union will permit itself to be placed in the position of supporting a North Korean action which some congressmen in the United States have called "an act of war." To do so could produce a situation in which the world once again—as in the Cuban cr

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The big question now is whether the Soviet Union will permit itself to be placed in the position of supporting a North Korean action which some congressmen in the United States have called "an act of war." To do so could produce a situation in which the world once again—as in the Cuban crisis—could find itself looking down the nuclear gun barrel.

The U.N. Command still exists in South Korea, and thus the machinery for resistance if the North Koreans decide to revive their gamble. Britain has pledged to stand by her commitment to help defend South Korea against unprovoked aggression. Others of the 16 nations which fought under the U.N. flag until 1953 probably are ready to do likewise.

The idea of a diversion to disperse U.S. power and keep the Americans off balance may be attractive to Communist rulers. But for the Soviet Union, at any rate, the risks must be weighed against the advantages.

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Precede Tokyo Pueblo-Koreans

WASHINGTON AP - The Defense Department Wednesday denounced as "a travesty on the facts," a North Korean claim that the commander of the captured U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo had confessed intruding into North Korean territorial waters.

"The style and wording of the document provide unmistakable evidence in themselves that this was not written or prepared by an American," Asst. Secretary of Defense Phil G. Goulding said in a statement read to reporters.

Goulding reacted several hours after the North Korean official news agency broadcast what it called a "confession" by Cmdr. Lloyd Bucher.

The broadcast quoted Bucher as saying: "I had no excuse whatsoever for my criminal act as my ship intruded deep into the territorial waters of the Democratic Peoples's Republic of North Korea and was captured by the naval patrol crafts of the Korean People's Army in their self-defense action while conducting the criminal espionage activities."

Goulding, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said it was "absolutely untrue" that the Pueblo had violated North Korean territorial waters.

He disclosed that the Pueblo was under orders, from the beginning of its mission, to stay at least 13 miles from North Korean territory.

First news of the Korean claim that Bucher had made a confession came from Tokyo where monitors recorded a broadcast of the Korean Central News Agency.

It quoted Bucher as saying:

"The crime," etc., a122 Tokyo date at 4th graf
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