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Pueblo-Equipment 300

WASHINGTON AP 8 north Korean capture of the Pueblo gives the Communists an opportunity to examine some of the most modern U.S. equipment used in electronic intelligence gathering.

Messages from the Pueblo before she was overwhelmed indicate the crew may have succeeded in destroying at least some of the secret gear and codes.

But it appeared likely that there still was much equipment which the Communists could study with profit to them.

Examination of official Navy pictures of the Pueblo shows some of the external equipment.

1. Twin antennae indicate the direction of signals being monitored so other devices can home in on them.

2. The Pueblo is fitted with long poles appearing to support cables for sending messages to submerged submarines via low frequency radio waves.

3. Radar equipment apparently designed for caroming signals off the troposphere—the lower atmosphere. This method is especially suitable for listening in on messages between aircraft and ground controllers.

4. A convex antenna, focused skyward, probably for listening in on aircraft radio conversations.

The mid-section of the 935-ton Pueblo is considered a probable site for equipment that records messages intercepted by other devices—information probably relayed back to the National Security Agency at Ft. Meade, Md., for decoding and analysis.

Navy sources indicated the Pueblo probably had underwater hydrophones, with a line trailing behind the craft under the surface of the water.

The hydrophones pick up sounds of submarines and the underwater churning of ship propellers. Since ships make somewhat individualistic sounds, these identifiable "signatures" can be used by intelligence experts, after being recorded, for later identification.

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