

North Korea Says Pueblo's Crew of 82 Apologizes

TOKYO, Feb. 16 (AP)—The North Korean radio said today that the entire crew of the captured United States intelligence ship Pueblo had submitted a joint statement saying they "deserve any punishment" but asking the North Korean Government for leniency.

The English-language broadcast from Pyongyang, the capital, said that "a joint statement of apology" had been signed by all 82 surviving crewmen of the Pueblo, including the ship's captain, Cmdr. Lloyd Mark Bucher.

The statement, according to the broadcast, "admitted" they had committed a "grave crime" by conducting espionage activities after having "intruded deep" into North Korea's coastal waters when their ship was captured by North Korean naval craft Jan. 23.

The broadcast said the letter

Reports All Declare They Deserve Any Punishment and Ask for Leniency

then asked the North Korean Government "to deal with us leniently."

The broadcast said the crewmen were "reluctant to make honest confessions of our crime at the initial stage of our detention, for we thought so great a crime might reflect on the honor of the United States of America and our own fate."

"But," the purported statement continued, "this foolish idea could not last long, and was shattered before the stern truth evidenced by various espionage papers, documents, and corroborative data of our crime which have been thor-

oughly reviewed and analyzed by the Korean People's Army."

U. S. Naval Intrusion Charged

HONG KONG, Feb. 16 (Reuters) — North Korea charged that United States naval craft intruded into its territorial waters this evening and attempted to carry out "provocative acts," the official North Korean press agency reported.

The agency said the intrusion had followed a "grave" ground attack today on a North Korean post on the bank of the Keumsungchun River in the central section of the cease-fire line.

The armed American boats intruded into the western waters of North Korea up to Soonwi Island south of Ongjin, the agency reported.

"The armed boats fled after attempting provocative acts," it added.