

Defense Official Discounts Letters From Pueblo's Crew

WASHINGTON, March 28 (UPI)—A defense official said today that "absolutely no credence" should be placed in messages from the crew of the captured intelligence ship Pueblo.

A number of these have been received by relatives, members of Congress, government officials and newspapers urging the United States to apologize to North Korea in an effort to obtain the release of the crew.

Paul C. Warnke, Assistant Secretary of Defense for international security affairs, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee:

"I think we should place absolutely no credence in messages obtained or contrived under those circumstances. We are not going to be able to know what these letters mean, whether they are coerced or not, until we get our crew back."