

Washington take 2 Pueblo-North Korea Bjt NL A027WX: boarded.

-Bucher was reported to have ordered his ship's highly sophisticated electronic gear destroyed, along with secret codes, when the North Koreans boarded his ship. There was no word here, however, as to whether all of the secret equipment was destroyed. There also were reports that the firing of explosive destruct devices may have injured four men aboard the Pueblo.

There still were a number of key gaps in the story, including details on what kind of instructions, if any, were sent out from Washington to govern the skipper's conduct and actions when he was confronted by the North Korean challenge.

The dour Soviet reaction to the U.S. plea to act as go-between was a blow to American diplomats and government leaders hoping for a non-shooting solution.

Sources said the United States has no evidence that the Soviets passed on the U.S. communications to the North Korean government.

It was understood that U.S. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson was met with a frigid reception when he went to talk over the matter with Vasily Kuznetsov, Soviet deputy foreign minister, in Moscow Tuesday.

McCloskey underscored the apparent intransigence of the North Koreans when he said that the Communist representatives at the Mixed Armistice Commission meeting at Panmunjom, South Korea, amounted to "cynical and denunciatory" treatment of the United States and "a distortion of the facts in the case."

By distortions, State Department sources said, McCloskey meant North Korean charges that the Pueblo had been acting provocatively and in a hostile manner.

Officials were vague about the channels being pursued, other than the unfruitful approach through Russia.

It was noted that U.S. Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg had been to see U.N. Secretary-General U Thant in New York.

At the very least, Goldberg was keeping U Thant informed of developments in case the matter should end up before the United Nations.

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