

3D PUEBLO OFFICER IS SAID TO CONFESS

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TOKYO, Feb. 4—A third officer of the intelligence ship Pueblo was reported by the North Vietnamese press agency today to have confessed that the vessel was engaged in espionage when she was seized by the North Koreans on Jan. 23.

A purported confession from Lieut. Frederick C. Schumacher, Jr., the operations officer of the Pueblo, was transmitted by radio here from Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

The alleged confession said that part of the ship's mission was to "gauge the reactions of Socialist countries" to the intrusion into their coastal waters by trawler-type espionage ships like the Pueblo.

Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, the captain, was reported to have made a confession last week. Another confession was attributed yesterday to the ship's research officer, Lieut. Stephen R. Harris.

The statements said to have been made by Lieutenants Harris and Schumacher did not add much to what Commander Bucher was quoted as having said.

Both were reported to have said, however, that the Pueblo had maintained radio and radar

silence when cruising off the North Korean and Soviet coasts in order not to attract attention.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (Reuters)—United States officials said today that an alleged confession by the operations officer of the Pueblo was a fabrication as two earlier reported confessions were.