

U.S. and North Korea Trade Charges at Panmunjom

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PANMUNJOM, Korea, Feb. 19—Allegations of attempts to open the Korea war anew were exchanged here today by the United States and North Korea at a heated meeting of the Military Armistice Commission.

The meeting, which was held at this neutral location in Korea, lasted for two and a half hours.

The Navy intelligence ship Pueblo, which was seized by North Korea Jan. 23, was mentioned only incidentally. North Korea charged that the United States had taken advantage of the incident to set the stage for a renewal of hostilities by building up its military capability in the South.

Rear Adm. John V. Smith, senior United Nations delegate on the commission, and North Korea's senior spokesman, Maj. Gen. Pak Chung Kuk, have held a number of secret meetings in this hillside village to discuss

the United States demand for the return of the ship and her 82 surviving crew members.

There has been no official indication by either side of progress made in those conferences.

Today's meeting, the 262d of the Armistice Commission, the joint body set up to supervise the 1953 armistice terms ending the Korean war, was unusual in that one party—the United Nations Command—admitted violation of the armistice.

Admiral Smith acknowledged that two United States military planes had intruded into North Korean airspace at 1:50 P.M. yesterday (Korean time). Two F-4C Phantom jet fighters, he said, lost their bearings on a "navigational flight originating outside Korea." He denied North Korea's charge that the planes had been on a "spy mission."

It was the 91st time that the United Nations Command has

admitted a truce violation, of approximately 45,000 offenses charged by the Communists since the commission was founded. In the same period, North Korea has acknowledged only two violations of more than 5,400 charged.

Effects of Recent Tension

The invective exchanged by the two senior delegates at this village, 30 miles north of Seoul, was spurred by the tension stemming from recent events.

Besides the Pueblo affair, there was an abortive attempt by North Korean commandos to assassinate South Korea's President, Chung Hee Park. There followed a swift infusion of American military power in South Korea, and plans for a build-up of the Seoul Government's forces were discussed last week in a visit by President Johnson's special envoy, Cyrus R. Vance.

General Pak charged that the

United States, confronted with what he called a revolution in the South, was "running amuck." The stocky general insisted that the attempt against President Park's life had been made by South Korean insurrectionists. Admiral Smith told the general that he thought the North Korean people had become "overagitated" by Communist accusations following the Pueblo incident.

"You must be careful lest you are unable to stop what you have started," he admonished. "Get this word back to Pyongyang: Now is the time for caution, not rashness."

The North Korean representative added 37 more specific accusations of armistice violations to the total alleged in the past. Except for the aerial intrusion, they concerned alleged firings by United States or South Korean forces along the demilitarized zone. Admiral Smith denied them all.