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**RANSOM RULED OUT
FOR MEN OF PUEBLO**

WASHINGTON, April 22 (AP) —The State Department said today that it was not considering paying ransom for the return of the 82-man crew of the intelligence ship Pueblo, which was seized by North Korea Jan. 23.

At the same time the 15th private meeting was held in Panmunjom, South Korea, between United States and North Korean representatives on the Pueblo deadlock. There was no hint of a breakthrough.

The State Department press officer, Robert J. McCloskey, said he expected that there would be additional meetings.

When asked about reports that the United States might offer construction equipment, food or medicine as ransom for the Pueblo crew, Mr. McCloskey said: "That is not correct and I know of no inclination on the part of this Government to take such a step."

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