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Pueblo Agreement Text 0320

WASHINGTON AP - Here is the text of a statement signed by the U.S. chief negotiator at Panmunjom Sunday in connection with release of the 82 crewmen of the captured USS Pueblo—a statement repudiated by the State Department in advance as false:

To the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:  
The Government of the United States of America, Acknowledging the validity of the confessions of the crew of the USS Pueblo and of the documents of evidence produced by the representative of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the effect that the ship, which was seized by the self-defense measures of the naval vessels of the Korean People's Army in the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on January 27, 1968, had illegally intruded into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Shoulders full responsibility and solemnly apologizes for the grave acts of espionage committed by the U.S. ship against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea after having intruded into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

And gives firm assurance that no U.S. ships will intrude again in the future into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Meanwhile, the government of the United States of America earnestly requests the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to deal leniently with the former crew members of the USS Pueblo confiscated by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, taking into consideration the fact that these crew members have confessed honestly to their crimes and petitioned the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for leniency.

Simultaneously with the signing of this document, the undersigned acknowledges receipt of 82 former crew members of the Pueblo and one corpse.

On behalf of the Government of the United States of America,  
Gilbert H. Woodward, Major General, USA

End Text

PH1023pes Dec. 22 1968