

Family Reunion Today in San Diego

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San Diego

From across America, from Japan and the Philippines, wives, children and parents of the 82 Pueblo crewmen are assembling for a big Christmas Eve reunion.

The crewmen released yesterday by North Korea, are due to arrive at Miramar Naval Air Station here at 4 p.m. PST today.

"A lot of people have prayed and worked for their release. This should be a joyous Christmas for the whole nation," Mrs. Lloyd Bucher, wife of the ship's skipper, said.

Mrs. Edward Murphy, wife of the ship's executive officer called it "The best Christmas present we will ever have."

DAUGHTER

Murphy has never seen their daughter, Victoria Lynn. She was born two months after the ship was captured. The couple also has a son, Eddie, 3.

"Just knowing they are re-

leased is enough to make this the happiest Christmas of my whole life," said Mrs. Lawrence Mack, wife of a photographer's mate. They have four children.

After the reunion at the air station, ten miles north of San Diego, the crewmen will be taken to the San Diego Naval Hospital in Balboa Park, for private reunions. More medical checkups and intelligence debriefings will follow at the hospital.

HOTEL

Most of the 170 wives and children of crewmen will stay at the nearby El Cortez Hotel. Most are prepared to stay there over Christmas.

"We want to return these men to their families as soon as possible, perhaps between two weeks and a month," a spokesman said.

"A man will be able to visit with his family whenever he's not tied up with debriefing or physicals. The plan is to give them as much time as possible. The medical living and lounge areas are close together in a semi-private area of the hospital."

The Navy is providing commercial flights for Pueblo families for cities across the nation, from homes in Japan, where the Pueblo was based, and from the Philippines, where relatives of the three ship stewards live.

FOOD

Due to regulations the Navy cannot pay food and lodgings of the families but the local Chamber of Commerce has launched a campaign for contributions.

A four-story pink stucco building, formerly the Navy's Hospital Corps School, will be a temporary residence for the crewmen.

Conventional single beds have replaced the two-tiered bunk beds. Most rooms have been furnished with bureaus and desks, floor lamps and carpets.

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