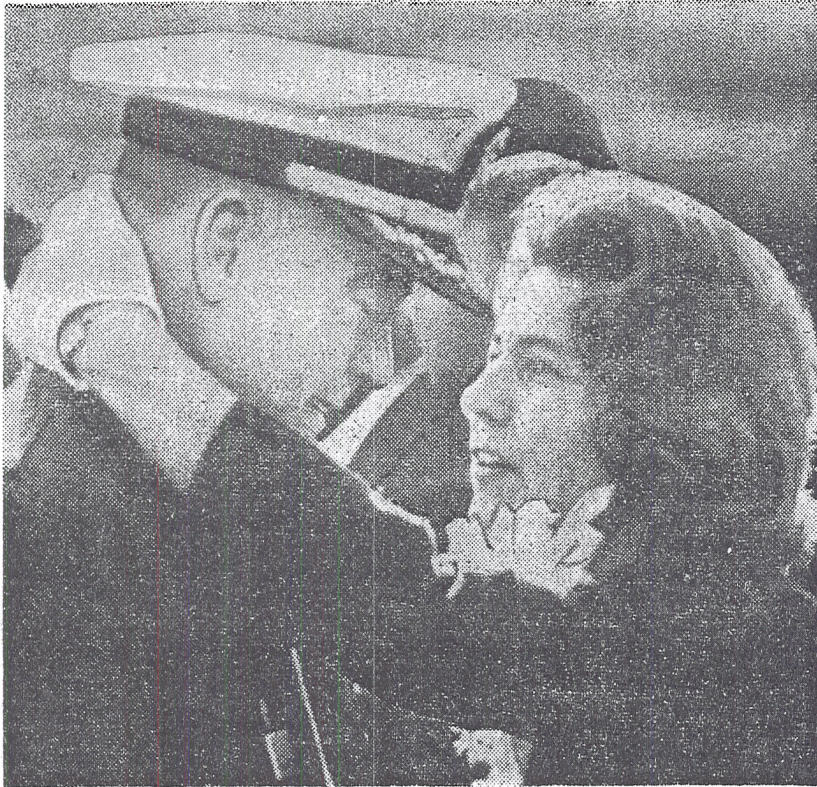


Pueblo Reunion



AP Wirephoto

Pueblo skipper Lloyd Bucher broke into tears when he was met by his wife at Miramar Naval Air station in San Diego. Commander Bucher and his 81 crewmen returned yesterday after 11 months in captivity in North Korea. Other photos, story on Page 8.

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mer commander in chief of U.N. forces in Korea; Admiral (Ret.) David L. McDonald, former Chief of Naval Operations, and Major General (Ret.) Laurence S. Kuter, former Commander in Chief of the Pacific Air Force and now a vice president of Pan American.

NEED

Reached for comment, Ball said the Pueblo incident red-letters the need for updating international law.

"I don't blame anybody for pursuing a course which we'd followed a long time because we never had gotten into trouble," Ball declared. "From an intelligence point of view, I think it is justified. And the reason we've never had any problems with the Soviet Union is because there is a tacit reciprocity: they don't do any thing to our

ships and we don't do anything to theirs."

But, Ball emphasized, since spy ships like the Pueblo represent neither "innocent passage" nor warlike attempts at invasion they pose a problem for a country, like North Korea, which is on the receiving end.

"An argument could be made," Ball declared, "that the only purpose for gathering intelligence is contemplation of the remote possibility of the need to invade. So the question is whether we don't have to sit down and do some rethinking about international law."

SHIPS

Ball was adamant against sending spy ships on their mission accompanied by a war vessel escort. Both President-elect Richard M. Nixon and leading members of Congress have urged such a course in the future.

"The automatic reflex that these ships have got to be accompanied by an escort of two or three destroyers would be highly provocative," Ball declared.

He illustrated this by saying that if either the North Koreans, or New Yorkers, spotted such an armada heading toward them — even outside their territorial water limit — the automatic assumption would be that an invasion was under way.

U.S. to Probe Pueblo Beatings

Times-Post Service

Washington

President Johnson yesterday ordered an "urgent investigation" into Pueblo Commander Lloyd M. Bucher's claim that the North Koreans had beaten his crew.

Tom Johnson, acting White House press secretary, said the President and the government were so "seriously concerned" with reports of the crew's treatment that they wanted the matter pursued.

As a practical matter, however, U. S. officials saw little chance of anything coming of it.

Since the Administration sees little hope of even getting the North Koreans to meet again to discuss the return of the U. S. Navy intelligence ship Pueblo itself North Korea is not expected to make any apologies for its 11-month-long treatment of the Pueblo's captive crew.

REPORT

In another aspect of the Pueblo case, it was learned that a secret presidential fact-finding committee told Mr. Johnson earlier this year that there was "no evidence" that the Pueblo had been within North Korea's 12-mile territorial water limit when North Korea captured the ship last January 23.

The committee in its oral report to the President, also found the chances "99 to 1" against the Pueblo ever having intruded within that 12-mile limit during the two weeks it was probing off the North Korean coast prior to its capture.

The committee was headed by George W. Ball, former undersecretary of State and U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Other members were Army General (Ret.) Mark W. Clark, for-

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