

Pueblo Prisoners Tell 'Gypsy Tea Room'

CORONADO (San Diego County) — (AP) — How the North Koreans operated the "Gypsy Tea Room" for USS Pueblo crewmen was described to a Navy court of inquiry yesterday.

The "Gypsy Tea Room" is what the men called a room in the prison compound where some were taken, plied with offers of beer, rice wine, liquor, candy and cookies—and then asked whether they would "accept a visitor sympathetic to the Communist cause" when they returned to their homes in the United States.

Subterfuge
Communications Technician 2.C. Charles William Ayling, 21, of Staunton, Va., was quoted by the Navy, in a

summary of closed-door testimony, as saying "he told them he would receive visitors, his objective being to 'turn those characters over to the FBI.'"

The court, now in its sixth week, has frequently heard stories of physical and mental tortures of crew members who said they fraudulently admitted spying on North Korea.

The court has concluded its probe of how the intelligence ship was seized in January 1968 without a fight and now is concentrating on how crew members conducted themselves during 11 months of captivity.

Clam-Up

The Navy summary of Ayling's testimony did not speci-

fy whether he, or any other Pueblo man, was contacted by a Communist sympathizer after the men returned to this country just before Christmas.

Hospitalman 1.C. Herman F. Baldrige testified he was asked to receive a visitor "named Kim." He and others have said they refused to accept any visitors.

In a summary of testimony by Senior Chief Communications Technician Ralph D. Bouden, the Navy said he received a thorough grilling by the North Koreans about secret equipment aboard the ship.

"He . . . never to his knowledge divulged any sensitive information," the Navy said.