

Captors 'Brutal Savages'

Bucher Clarifies Cruelty

Coronado, Calif.

The captain of the USS Pueblo, Commander Lloyd M. Bucher, testifying yesterday on questions he felt had not been answered in the Navy's inquiry, said his North Korean captors were brutal savages who taught children to torture baby birds and trained them to kill Americans.

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Comander Bucher appeared at his own request in the final phase of a court of inquiry into the capture of his intelligence ship last year and the conduct of his men during 11 months' imprisonment.

He choked up and appeared on the verge of tears as he told about hearing "yells and screams of pain" while North Koreans beat his crew.

BABY BRIDS

"I saw on numerous occasions Koreans through the window of my room . . . both the men and the women in

uniform and their maids . . . do such things as pulling legs off baby birds and taking baby toads and pulling them apart," Bucher said.

"It seemed to me these people are basically cruel and brutal savages . . . I was certain we could expect to receive the same treatment as small crawling creatures out on the sidewalks tortured with lighted sticks."

His recitation of atrocities echoed statements earlier in the day from Vice Admiral John V. Smith, senior member of the U.N. negotiations team at Panmunjon when the Pueblo was captured.

Smith called the North Koreans "Mongolian savages . . . mad dogs . . . and one step above animals."

FELMS

"I never saw a Korean pass one of those dogs in the compound without kicking him," Bucher said. "The North Koreans are brought

up that way."

He said their children from the age of 2 are taught to hate Americans and he described North Korean movies this way:

"There is one scene in each of them in which a grandfatherly or grandmotherly type says words to the effect, 'Well, Johnny, or well, Susie, what are you going to do when you grow up?'"

"The kid would invariably say, 'I want to kill an American.'"

Bucher said his two main concerns in prison were the treatment of his men and whether he or anyone in his crew would break down under torture and divulge secret information.

But he said interrogations led him to believe North Koreans were "not sophisticated or technically oriented enough to examine what I was most concerned with, and I became more confident . . . these secret areas would not be approached."