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Pueblo 340

PROSPECT HEIGHTS, Ill. AP - Classified information concerning the captured U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo was relayed to a group called the Remember the Pueblo Committee by "highly reliable government sources," the group's leader said Monday.

The Rev. Paul D. Lindstrom, national chairman of the committee, said at a news conference that the committee "has shared during the past 10 months a great deal of information with the American people."

"But the sharing of this information, which has come to us by way of highly reliable government sources," Lindstrom said, "has been an imperative task in that it was the only way to offset the lies and half-truths emanating from administration sources in Washington, D.C."

The news conference was promoted by charges by Sen. Stephen M. Young, D-Ohio, that there were indications at least one high Pentagon official leaked highly classified information about the Pueblo to right-wing extremist organizations.

Young told the Senate Thursday: "It is obvious that many facts concerning the Pueblo incident were furnished to these right-wing publications prior to the time they were revealed to the Naval Board of Inquiry investigating the affair."

The senator also said: "It is clear that they receive their advance information from right-wing sympathizers holding sensitive jobs in the Defense Department."

Young noted that Lindstrom called a news conference Dec. 21 to report the United States and North Korea had come to terms for the release of the Pueblo crew. The official announcement came the day after Lindstrom's conference, the senator said.

A statement released by Lindstrom Monday read in part: "Highly reliable government sources sympathetic to the Remember the Pueblo Committee and with whom we have been in contact since Senator Young's speech have informed us that channels of information remain intact" and as long as information is available it will be supplied to us."

Young said he will demand an investigation by the Senate Armed Services Committee, of which he is a member, if leaks about the spy ship continue.

Young identified Lindstrom as pastor of the Church of Christian Liberty in Chicago and he said Lindstrom's committee is tied to the Liberty Lobby.

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