

CIA Pueblo 'Ransom' Claimed

CHICAGO — (AP) — The Rev. Paul Lindstrom, national chairman of the Remember the Pueblo Committee, claimed today the United States paid a ransom to North Korea for the release of the Pueblo's crew.

Lindstrom also said "a State Department source informed our committee that there will be no attempt on the part of our government to return the ship"

Lindstrom said the ransom "was not handled by the State Department. Information we received Dec. 20 stated that the CIA was involved in the ransom and we know now this was true. The exact nature of the ransom, money or some other type of financial arrangement, was carried through by the CIA."

"The ship has been transferred," Lindstrom said, "to a northernmost port of North Korea near the Russian border."

Lindstrom initially made his statements about the ransom in a telephone interview with the Norfolk, Va., Virginia-Pilot.

Sen. Stephen Young said Friday that Lindstrom is a John Birch Society supporter and called for an investigation of Lindstrom's "security leaks."