

New Korean Crisis

The urgent need in the first shock of word that a United States reconnaissance plane has been shot down by North Korean fighter planes is to avoid a mood of national hysteria. Too little is yet known about the incident to permit any intelligent judgment on what American response is required.

The mystery that still surrounds all details of the seizure of the spy ship Pueblo makes it doubly important to avoid doing too much too soon. The worst hangover of that initial tragedy is that even now there has been no clarification of why with the enormous new potentialities of reconnaissance satellites it remains important to have unarmed intelligence ships and planes patrolling so close to Communist territories that any possible question of intrusion can exist.

The paramount immediate hope of all Americans is that the downed planes crew will be saved and returned promptly to American hands.