

A2 19KX

ZYUQYYKX

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. AP - Cmdr. Lloyd Bucher said Saturday that he expected the United States to use force to free him and his crew after the North Koreans captured his spy ship Pueblo and he was surprised when help didn't come.

His ship and crew were captured in Jan. 23, 1968 in international waters. They were released this year and after a court of inquiry, the secretary of the Navy, John H. Chafee, ruled on May 9 that no disciplinary action would be taken against Bucher or the other 81 men aboard.

Bucher, visiting relatives here, was quoted in an interview as saying:

"If the United States as a nation and the National Security Council recommends to the President that this type of mission is necessary, and if the President decides to do it he has to be willing either to back that type of mission or at least prepare the crew.

"If he's not going to back it up and he tells them ahead of time 'hey, look, you men are dispensable out there and you're going voluntarily and if something happens to you we're not going to do anything about it,' people would understand it.

"But when you are in a situation where you have been promised help and you don't get it, it tends to destroy your faith in what's going on."

Bucher, who has been in the Navy 18½ years, said he hopes to stay in as long as he can be useful and that he wants to go back to sea.

He has been reassigned to the Naval Postgraduate School which prepares officers for senior posts in management.

B1057PCD June 28 1969