

## Pueblo Loss Blamed on Top Brass

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — A House Armed Services subcommittee has unanimously approved a report that puts much of the blame for loss of the USS Pueblo not on the crew but on military brass, it was learned today.

The special investigating subcommittee reached its verdict after a four-month study of the events before, during and after capture of the American intelligence ship by North Korean patrol boats and aircraft on Jan. 23, 1968.

The report is slated for clearance by the parent committee today and is to be made public shortly thereafter.

The congressional panel headed by Rep. Otis Pike (D-N.Y.), zeroed in on the top commanders, such as retired Adm. Ulysses S. Grant Sharp, at the time commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, and Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The lawmakers hammered away at what they felt were the poor lines of communication within the military intelligence community and a lack of precautionary steps taken before the lightly armed and unescorted Pueblo sailed on her last mission.

Subcommittee members reportedly were unhappy over the routine way in which the mission was accorded a "minimal risk" classification.