

RESPONSE ON PUEBLO EXPLAINED BY SHARP

WASHINGTON, July 27 (UPI) —The commander of United States forces in the Pacific at the time of the Pueblo's capture did not think the United States had enough power in the area to make a retaliatory strike against North Korea.

Adm. Ulysses S. Grant Sharp, now retired, felt the country was not capable of fighting "a second Korean war" while it was tied down in Vietnam, according to previously secret testimony made public Sunday.

Admiral Sharp, appearing before a House Armed Services Subcommittee in April, recalled his thoughts on Jan. 24, 1967, the day after North Korean patrol boats and planes had seized the intelligence-gathering ship in the Sea of Japan.

"I had to consider everything in my area, and what I could expect from the United States to back it up," Admiral Sharp related. "And I didn't think that was enough to wage two wars."

The subcommittee, headed by Representative Otis G. Pike, Democrat of New York, made public some of the closed-session testimony one day before it planned to issue its report on the incident.