

An Old Hand at Truces

Gilbert Hume Woodward

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When Maj. Gen. Gilbert Hume Woodward was last in charge of overseeing an Asian cease-fire—the one in Korea—he honed and developed a gift for negotiation and coolness under insult, inuendo and harangue.

In the formal talks at Panmunjom in 1968 and 1969, he held his own against the

North Koreans' familiar stream of abuse, learning to accept with a frosty smile being called a "running dog of U.S. imperialism" and a "bloodthirsty Wall Street lackey."

The experience helped him effect the release of the 82 captured crewmen of the American intelligence ship Pueblo, and may well prove useful in his new role as commander of the United States delegation to the four-power joint commission that will oversee the coming cease-fire in Vietnam.

Made Formal 'Apology'

After months of negotiations aimed at releasing the crewmen, he agreed to an embarrassing "apology," admitting that the electronics-laden ship had violated North Korean waters.

But before signing the "apology," he publicly denounced it as a lie.

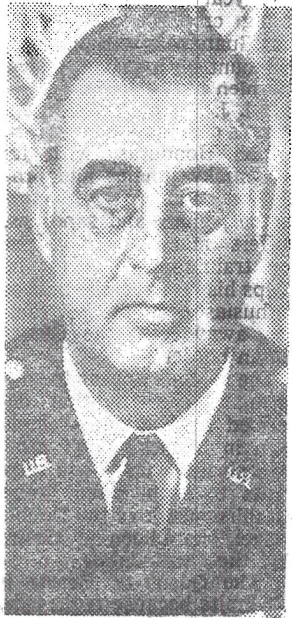
"I will sign the document to free the crew and only to free the crew," he said.

General Woodward, who was born in Suffolk, Va., on June 8, 1917, has in recent years grown to look more and more like Franklin Delano Roosevelt in middle age, a resemblance that is striking to some who meet him for the first time.

The early part of his career as a soldier was spent in the European war, like many of those who were graduated by West Point in the nineteen-thirties and early nineteen-forties.

European Assignment

After graduation in 1940, he quickly moved through the ranks in stateside assign-



Associated Press
Helped free the crew of the Pueblo.

ments, going to Europe as a lieutenant colonel in 1944, where he commanded a support unit in the 94th Infantry Division. He served in four campaigns there and, after the end of the war, saw a short period of occupation duty in Czechoslovakia.

In the years that followed, he served as an instructor at West Point, enrolled at the Army's Armor School, took a leave of absence to get a graduate degree in political science, and was assigned to planning headquarters at SHAPE, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers, Europe, in Berlin.

In the early nineteen-sixties, he was given a number of administrative posts at the Pentagon, including one at the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and then, in 1968, he became senior member of the Military Armistice Commission in Korea.

A Variety of Faces

During the formal, vituperative talks at Panmunjom, reporters could watch him

through open windows as he parried insults, froze a smile, or pretended to become heavy-lidded and sleepy. During the informal talks aimed at freeing the Pueblo crew, he was reportedly a firm and determined bargainer.

Last May, after another series of Pentagon assign-

ments, he was promoted to Chief of Staff of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

General Woodward, who has no trace of a Southern accent despite his Virginia birth, is an enthusiastic athlete who plays tennis, squash

and handball.

In 1941, a year after being graduated at West Point, he married the former Stuart Hansley. The couple has two children, a daughter, also named Stuart, and a son, Charles.