

AP

Washington - Richard Helms, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, denies that the CIA had anything to do with the mission of the USS Pueblo.

"Neither this agency nor I personally have had anything to do with the mission of the USS Pueblo, the ship itself or any of its crew," Helms said in a letter to Sen. Stuart Symington, D-Mo.

He said that the Pueblo, captured last January by the North Koreans, "was tasked to gather during this mission information which was of tactical and departmental interest to the United States Navy."

The letter was dated and released Tuesday [4 Feb].

For USS Pueblo, see separate file.