

U.S. Spikes Report Pueblo Men Near Release

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The United States and North Korea held a third meeting Monday on the Pueblo incident, the State Department reported, but no "breakthrough or settlement" was in sight.

A department spokesman, Robert J. McCloskey, said the fact that representatives of the two

sides were continuing to talk at Panmunjom suggested an element of progress. But he said this should not be construed as meaning "we feel that we are on a breakthrough or a settlement of this problem."

McCloskey spoke with reporters amid reports in Seoul, Tokyo and elsewhere of an agreement on

freeing the 83 men of the Pueblo, captured on Jan. 23.

Asked about this, McCloskey said: "I know of no foundation for such reports."

William Bundy, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, also said there was no foundation to reports from the Far East and elsewhere that

the 83 men of the Pueblo might be released soon.

Speculation that North Korea might be preparing to free the men came with the first public concession by U.S. officials that the Pueblo conceivably could have strayed into North Korea's territorial waters at some time during a two-week period while

on an intelligence mission in the Sea of Japan.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara said on Sunday that it was not possible to rule out absolutely the possibility the Pueblo might have at some time entered the 12-mile territorial limit claimed by North Korea before the Pueblo was seized Jan. 23.

Bundy said, however, that officials were absolutely sure the ship was in international waters both when she was first challenged by a North Korean gunboat and when she was seized by an armed boarding party.

In the 13 days since the hijacking the United States has contended that the ship did not penetrate the 12-mile limit. McNamara and Rusk said in a joint broadcast interview they still doubt it.

North Korea reported Monday the Pueblo's navigator confessed the intelligence-gathering vessel violated the Communist nation's territorial waters more than five times before it was captured.

The North Korean central news agency (KCNA) said Navy Lt. Edward Rens Murphy Jr., 31, admitted in his "confession" that the violations could be "substantiated" by the ship's log.

It was the fourth "confession" attributed to a crewman of the Pueblo since it was captured by the Communists off Wonsan, North Korea. The others have included one attributed to Capt. Lloyd M. Bucher, the Pueblo's skipper.

As in the other "confessions," KCNA said Murphy apologized for the violations, promised not to engage in future "hostile acts" against North Korea and pleaded for leniency.

The purported confession said the Pueblo's mission was to "detect and localize radars" in North Korea and to study particularly a "cross slot" radar believed to be an early air warning system. The Pueblo also was to observe and photograph naval ships and take note of submarine activities in the North Korean ports of Wonsan, Mayang Do, Songjin and Chongjin, the statement said.

Reds Assault Khe Sanh

(Continued from Page 1)

field and the Thai Nguyen steel complex north of Hanoi.

In Saigon, Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky announced plans for a civilian militia to help drive back the Viet Cong penetration of the cities and to prevent future attacks. He said the 600,000 men under arms was not enough, and 58,000 more would be drafted.

His announcement emphasized the gravity of the military situation. The Communists still held the ancient capital of Hue and had penetrated or cut off many cities, including Saigon, where food shortages were soaring.

Khe Sanh is only a few miles from the border of Laos and seven miles below the demilitarized zone. U.S. officials have estimated up to 20,000 North Vietnamese massed there for an imminent attack and another 30,000 stretched out along the DMZ.

B-52s trying to stave off the offensive carried out seven raids along the border. But still the Communists were able to attack Hill 861 — one of twin hills guarding Khe Sanh — and to rain rocket, mortar and artillery fire on the main fortress.

Atop Hill 861, a small band of Marines hurled back the first Communist assault with machinegun fire. Spokesmen said the North Vietnamese then charged in human waves and broke through the Marine defense perimeter.

The Marines radioed for artillery. The barrage struck the North Vietnamese, and when the Marines emerged they counted more than 100 enemy bodies dangling on the barbed wire.

The assault against Khe Sanh followed up, as U.S. generals predicted, eight days of Viet Cong strikes against 35 South Vietnamese cities. Allied spokesmen said the first six days' fighting left 17,000 enemy dead along with 1,447 allied troops killed, including 471 Americans.

Allied spokesmen reported renewed guerrilla strikes in the central waist of South Vietnam. They struck at the U.S. base at Tuy Hoa, 235 miles up the coast, but American troops stopped them short of the railway station.

In Hue, UPI correspondent Alvin Webb reported helicopters flying in supplies because of the loss of the bridge. He said fight-

Johnson . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

late on the reason for Johnson's "extraordinary gesture" beyond saying that it was designed to alert everyone to the gravity of the situation.

The Defense Department said the Joint Chiefs were asked by Johnson for an evaluation of the Khe Sanh situation.

When questioned, the Pentagon issued the following statement:

"After conferring with General (William C.) Westmoreland, the Joint Chiefs determined that Khe Sanh could and should be defended and so reported to the President in a Joint Chiefs of Staff memorandum signed by the chairman, Gen. (Earle) Wheeler."

ing for the ruins of the city, once known as the "Venice of the Orient," was fierce.

"Casualties are pouring out by the scores — Americans and Vietnamese civilians. We're getting the worst out by chopper but there is no other way since the bridge is out," Webb said.

In Saigon, UPI correspondent Thomas Corpora reported streams of refugees pouring into

the city center to escape the Chinatown fighting, in which artillery was being fired in the streets.

Despite the fighting, much of Saigon moved to normal life. Electric power was restored. Shops opened. Residents buried relatives in back yards. Bulldozers shoved piles of Viet Cong dead into mass graves.

Communist forces kept up

their offensive in the Mekong Delta. Monday they launched mortar and ground attacks against the Binh Thuy airbase, largest in the delta.

Maj. Gen. George Eckhardt, senior American adviser in the delta, said the Vietnamese defenders killed 150 Communist raiders in day-long fighting still under way Monday night. He gave no allied casualty figures.

3-Part Tourist Tax Asked

(Continued from Page 1)

this particular method was adopted so that the tax would "not fall heavily on those with modest incomes or those of any income level who choose to travel modestly in this period."

Here is how the travel tax would be collected:

Before leaving on a foreign trip, the traveler would deposit at the port of departure an amount equal to the tax he expects to owe, and would file a statement indicating how much money and traveler's checks he is taking with him.

On his return, he would make a corresponding statement of the amount of money he brings back. He would then have 60 days in which to file a formal return and adjust his payment if necessary.

The detailed statement a traveler would be required to file on return to the United States would take into account credit card charges, amounts paid in advance for a booked tour, and withdrawals from domestic or foreign banks and money sent from home.

The penalty for failing to file a departure declaration would be set at \$200.

Exemptions are provided for persons leaving the United States to establish residence in a foreign country, or students departing to spend at least 120 days in full-time study abroad, employees of U.S. corporations transferred abroad for more than 120 days and others spending an equivalent time in a trade or business or profession abroad. All government employees traveling on official business also would be exempt.

Gen. Beeson's Condition Critical After Car Crash

HEIDELBERG (S&S) — Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Beeson, 46, chief of staff, Allied Air Forces Southern Europe (AIRSOUTH), remained in critical condition Monday after being injured in an auto crash on the Frankfurt-Heidelberg autobahn Jan. 31.

Mrs. Beeson, injured less seriously in the same crash, is in satisfactory condition at 130th U.S. Army Hospital here. Beeson is in Heidelberg Surgical Hospital. Police were unable to establish the cause of the crash.

Beeson has served in the Naples headquarters for about 13 months. Previously he had been vice-commander of 14th Air Force, Gunter AFB, Ala. He is a native of Riverside, Calif.

Fowler said the average low-income traveler such as a student or a foreign born-citizen visiting relatives and friends abroad spend on the average about \$10 a day and thus his expenditure tax would be 45 cents a day.

The expenditure tax would not be levied on his transportation to and from this country although the excise tax would apply there.

Thus, such a low budget traveler spending as much as 50 days abroad would pay a total tax of only about \$45, including both new taxes, he said.

The slightly higher budget traveler spending \$15 per day would pay an expenditure tax of \$1.20 per day, Fowler calculated. He said that a 30-day trip would cost, in expenditure tax and transportation tax, less than \$60, or about 6.5 per cent of the estimated total \$900 price of the trip.

At present, tourists are allowed to bring back into the

country with them up to \$100 worth of purchases without paying duty and they may mail home from abroad gifts worth up to \$10 without paying duty.

Fowler proposed that the \$100 exemption be cut to \$10 for persons returning from countries other than Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean area, and that the gift provision be reduced to \$1. There would be no change in the present \$50 exemption for gifts from U.S. servicemen in combat zones.

Congress' initial reaction seemed to be that the travel tax would be a second dose of bitter medicine after the still unswallowed proposal for an income tax surcharge.

But Chairman Wilbur D. Mills of the House Ways and Means Committee, which has repeatedly shelved the tax increase while demanding more spending cuts, has shown himself more favorable at least to the principle of the balance-of-payments program.

Germans Attack U.S. Trade Center

From AP and UPI Dispatches

FRANKFURT — Left-wing German students hoisted the Viet Cong flag on the roof of the U.S. Trade Center in downtown Frankfurt.

An estimated 1,000 howling and screaming demonstrators, chanting "Yankees leave Vietnam" and demanding weapons for the Viet Cong, threw firecrackers at club-wielding policemen.

Riot police turned water hoses on the demonstrators. Police said there were a number of arrests.

The demonstrators had attacked the Trade Center with rocks and metal bars after police water cannon stopped them from forcing their way into the U.S. Consulate.

Witnesses reported three large show windows and the glass door of the modernistic center were smashed. The youngsters also hauled down a West German flag from a staff in front of the building and burned it on the pavement, witnesses said.

The attack came as an apparent surprise to about 300 riot police blocking approaches to the consulate building and to a third target, the America House cultural center where several windows were broken.

The demonstrators, chanting

"Ho Chi Minh" and "Weapons for the Viet Cong," gathered first outside the consulate where they were met by about 100 police stationed behind barriers, and 13 mounted police.

Some of the students jumped over the barriers and attempted to storm the consulate. They were forced back by a burst from the water cannon and at least three were arrested.

The demonstration followed a "teach-in" at Frankfurt University, where the left-wing student leader Rudi Dutschke called for a "go-in that can be transformed into an occupation of the American Consulate."

Dutschke, nicknamed "Red Rudi," demanded a militant demonstration against American institutions, but not against people.

The demonstrators threw dozens of firecrackers into the consulate forecourt. They carried a Viet Cong flag and pictures of Ho Chi Minh, the North Vietnamese president.

The demonstrators then marched on the America House cultural center where they scuffled with police, who used a water cannon to hold them back.

They knocked down a policeman and freed one of their number whom he had arrested.

Flee!

SAN LEANDRO, Calif. (AP) — There was Tower of Babel trouble on the Nimitz Freeway Sunday.

Highway Patrol officer Russ Creamer flagged down a Maserati sports car doing 105 miles per hour. The driver, Jacques Maglia, was French and his passenger, Yoshiatso Itoh, was Japanese. Both are 26.

Maglia spoke no Japanese, Itoh no French. Neither spoke English, but conversed in Italian. Creamer spoke neither French, Japanese nor Italian. Using sign language, he escorted the pair to the Highway Patrol office, where Stel Papadopoulos, who is of Greek descent, spoke some French.

This was enough to understand Maglia when he said they were test drivers for the Maserati company of Italy and were on a world tour with the car. And, said Maglia, they were awfully sorry they had mistaken signs for U.S. Highway 101 for the speed limit.

Releasing the pair with a warning, Creamer said he was glad they hadn't seen a sign for State Route 935.