

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4502

September 12, 2008

The Honorable Donald C. Winter
The Secretary of the Navy
Washington, DC 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Winter:

It has been publicly reported that recent bilateral discussions between the United States and North Korea have touched on the disposition of the U.S.S. Pueblo, which is still held the by North Koreans, forty years after its unlawful capture.

This weekend in Essex, Vermont, surviving crew members from the U.S.S. Pueblo gather for a reunion to remember that harrowing event and explore what it has meant for their lives.

These developments and the passage of four decades might make this a suitable moment for the U.S. Navy to revisit and more fully recognize the suffering and the sacrifice that the crew endured for their country.

The U.S. Navy has access to some of the nation's finest historians and analysts through its historical center and the Center for Naval Analyses, and perhaps the service would explore having one of these organizations carry out the study. So many officers and sailors contributed so much to our country during the Cold War, and it is fitting and proper that all of them, including the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo, receive the thanks and the recognition they deserve.

I greatly appreciate the U.S. Navy considering the idea of a detailed look at its handling of the U.S.S. Pueblo.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator