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FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1 Memo	Jack Marsh to Philip Buchen re NSC meeting <i>portions exempted 9/15/89 RBH</i>	5/13/75	A

FILE LOCATION Marsh Files
 General Subject File
 Mayaguez Crisis

Box 20

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WHM 1/22/86

TOP SECRET

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 13, 1975

DECLASSIFIED - E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
With PORTIONS EXEMPTED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 1.3 (a) (1)(5)

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHIL BUCHEN

MR 88-2, #5, NSC Ltr. 4/8/89

FROM:

JACK MARSH

By KBH, NARA, Date 2/15/89

Summary of the NSC Meeting

At the NSC Meeting there was a discussion of the seizure of the American ship which has not been taken into port on the mainland but is being held at an off-shore island approximately 30 miles at sea. She has one anchor down and one anchor up with some heat from the boiler and it is improbable that the Cambodians can sail her. She has one tug and one high speed motor beside her.

Some people, probably crew members, have been taken off and moved to the island. It is believed that probably some crew members remain on the ship which is being kept under Air Force surveillance.

The President was advised by General Jones that orders had been issued not to allow the ship to move to port and to take such steps to prevent that short of sinking her.

Anticipated Actions are:

1. nearby air passes to frighten.
2. damage by gunfire to the controls at the stern.
3. if taken in tow, attack the tug.

At about 11:30 a.m., the President issued instructions that U.S. forces would interdict all craft moving to and from the island immediately in order to prevent the Americans from being taken to the mainland. General Jones indicated they would try to use search lights and flares from P-3 aircraft to identify boat targets for the purpose of avoiding attack on small craft carrying Americans.

TOP SECRET



The following actions are being contemplated (Washington time)

1. At 7:00 p.m. this evening there could be a helicopter assault by U.S. Marines on the ship.
2. At 6 a.m. Wednesday morning, the destroyer HOLT will arrive on the scene and be able to prevent movement of the vessel as well as augment the Marines if the assault takes place.
3. At 7:00 p.m. Wednesday it is anticipated that if the crewmen have not been returned or the ship has not been returned, the landing forces of 1,000 Marines will assault the island to free the Americans.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. Thursday, 3:00 a.m. the U.S. CORAL SEA should arrive on the scene.
5. Friday, 4:00 a.m., the U.S. HANCOCK should arrive on the scene.

All of the above times are estimated Eastern Daylight Savings Time, Washington, D.C.

It is admitted that Cambodia can and may sink the vessel at any time. The number of Americans on the ship or on the island is uncertain.

.....

The meeting adjourned to be recalled shortly this same day for the purpose of deciding upon options to pursue. At the present time, the most immediate action is a helicopter assault at 7:00 p.m. this evening which is considered to be a high risk operation inasmuch as the containers on the deck are not believed to be sufficiently strong to support a helicopter landing.
 The landing will be achieved by rappelling forces from the helicopter.

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4 (b)

White House Guide Lines, Feb. 24, 1983

By RA P NAR Date 1/14/86

TALKING POINTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

I am calling to inform you, on a classified basis, of certain developments with regard to the seizure of an American merchant vessel by Cambodian naval vessels off the coast of Cambodia yesterday. The United States has demanded the immediate release of the ship and its crew. There has been no Cambodian response to this demand.

As a precautionary measure, the President has ordered the U. S. military forces to take certain actions:

-- to prevent the American seamen from being transferred from the vessel or the nearby island to the Cambodian mainland, placing their lives in jeopardy and restricting our ability to rescue them.

-- to prevent reinforcement from the Mainland of the Cambodian forces detaining the American vessel and crew...

With these objectives in mind, the President has directed that U. S. aircraft should attempt to stop the movement of Cambodian boats ~~between the island and the ship and between the ship or the island and the Cambodian mainland~~ and to prevent movement of the ship itself. Our military commanders have been directed to use the minimum force required to achieve these objectives.

FYI. You may draw on, but not go beyond, the attached fact sheet in answering questions on this subject.



May 13, 1975

5 p.m

Status of the U. S. Merchant Ship Seized by Cambodians

The S. S. Mayaguez, seized by Cambodian Communist forces, May 12, is now about 20 miles outside the port of Kompong Som, just north of Koh Tang Island. The ship is dead in the water, and there is reason to believe that most or all of its crew has been transferred to the island. The ship is being kept under surveillance by U. S. reconnaissance aircraft.

As a precautionary measure, several U. S. Navy combat vessels have been ordered to proceed to the general area of Koh Tang Island.

The U. S. has requested that Phnom Penh authorities have the ship released immediately. We have, so far, received no reply.

An NSC meeting was convened this morning.



1. Cottrell

2.

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

*hlc classified
jm*

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4 (b)
White House Guide Lines, Feb. 24, 1983
By AND NARS, Date 1/17/86

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DISCUSSION PAPER

As a follow-up to our telephone call to you last night concerning the seizure of an American vessel in the Gulf of Thailand, I want to provide you in advance and on a private basis the following information which will be announced by the Department of Defense shortly after *noon today*

Beginning at 8:30 p.m. EDT yesterday, there were indications that the Cambodians appeared to be attempting to move U. S. captive crewmen from the ship to the mainland. After giving warning and taking precautions to avoid injury to Americans, U.S. aircraft began efforts to block this movement. Three Cambodian patrol craft were destroyed and four others were damaged and immobilized. One boat succeeded in reaching Kompong Som, possibly with some U.S. captives aboard.

The MAYAGUEZ is still anchored off Koh *Tang* Island. The first U.S. Navy surface vessel, the destroyer escort HOLT, arrived in the area this morning. In the meantime, a Swedish refrigerator cargo ship, the MS HIRADO, was reportedly attacked by a patrol boat off Panjang Island, which is also claimed by Cambodia. Radio contact has been lost and the fate of this ship is unknown.

The NSC held a second meeting yesterday at ^{10:30} ~~1:30~~ p.m. EDT and will meet again today. We will keep you informed.



HOUSE

Allert - Talked to Mike Reid (MAX)
O'Neill - " " " O'Neill

~~McFall~~

~~Morgan~~

Michel - Charlie talked to him - O.K.

Morgan - no comments. Doing what should be done.

Rhodes - talked to Rhodes personally (LOEN)

Wilson - " " " " " (LOEN)

Broomfield " " " " " (LOEN)

Mahon " " " " " (LOEN)

Senate

Manfield - talked to Manfield personally

Byrd - " " " "

Scott " " " "

Guffin " " " "

Sparkman " " " "

McClellan " " " "

Stennis " " " "

Case " " " "

Young " " " "

Thurmond " " " "

EASTLAND - not reached personally.

House

McFall -

Price -

Cedberg -

~~_____~~



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 13, 1975

Memo to Max Friedersdorf

From Bill Kendall

Subject Notification of action regarding S.S. Mayaguez

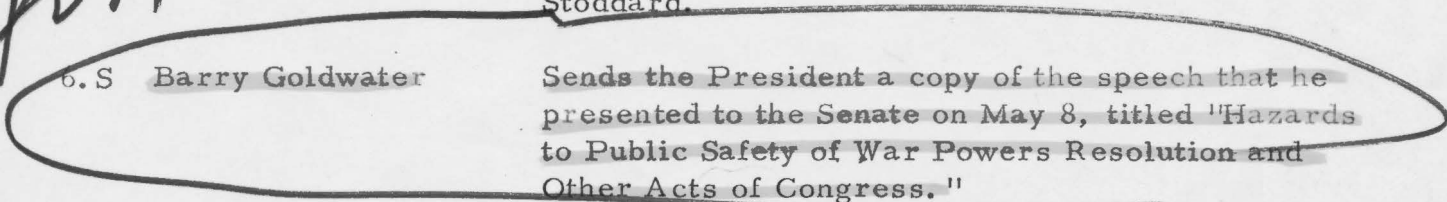
<u>SENATOR</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
Mansfield	5:55	office	WK	O. K., thanks for calling.
Case	6:00	Office	WK	Pleased to have information. Asked if crew members were on ship or island. Appreciated call.
Byrd (W. Va.)	6:10	home	WK, for POD	Good initial steps. Thinks President should give them deadline and then go in and get them.
Scott (Pa)	6:15	home	WK	That's good. Keep me informed.
Young	6:30	home	WK	Good. Are we sure crew is on either island or ship?
Stennis	6:35	Press Club	WK	Senator approves of steps. Will back President all the way.
Griffin	6:05	Office	POD	Thank you. What are Chinese doing? Keep me advised.
Thurmond	6:08	Office	POD	They are testing us. President must be firm. Public will back him 100%.
Sparkman	6:30	Home	POD	Thank you. Sure is a sticky situation. I hear the boat is now moving.
McClellan	7:20	Home	POD	I support the President's actions. We must be tough with these people and resort to bombing if necessary.



Senate

- 1.S James Buckley Strongly urges that the "reassessment of U. S. -Israeli relations" take into account the necessity of providing larger than average inventories of military equipment, spare parts, combat consumables (particularly ammunition) and up-to-date aircraft, surface-to-surface missiles, and related materiel necessary to meet the military threat posed to Israel's survival.
- 2.S Bill Brock "I hope you will join us at a luncheon sponsored by the National Invest in America Council in the Senate Caucus Room, at 12:15 p. m. (on June 4) to honor Secretary Simon; the Chairman of the Board of Koppers Industries Fletcher Byrom; and Columnist James J. Kilpatrick, with the Council's Eagle Awards."
- 3.S James Abourezk Recommends that George Jessel be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- 4.S James B. Allen Urges the President to call the White House Conference on Library and Information Sciences as soon as possible.
- 5.S Pete V. Domenici Asks for an autographed photograph for Steve Stoddard.
- 6.S Barry Goldwater Sends the President a copy of the speech that he presented to the Senate on May 8, titled "Hazards to Public Safety of War Powers Resolution and Other Acts of Congress."
- 7.S Hiram L. Fong Recommends that Dr. Donald D. Johnson be appointed to the National Commission on Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works.
- 8.S Lawton Chiles Hopes the President will accept invitation to be Commencement speaker for the Jacksonville University in August 1975, April 1976, or August 1976.
- 9.S J. Bennett Johnston Sends the President, taken at the Washington Mardi Gras Ball, photographs as reminders of the First Family's gracious participation in the festivities.

Handwritten initials: PW



House

1. Clair Burgener Expresses appreciation for the courtesy and attention the President extended to the delegation representing the Republican Study Committee at the meeting on April 30. Forwards a summary of H.R. 5133, "National Welfare Reform Act of 1975," which he and 69 others have cosponsored. Asks that it be carefully reviewed.
2. Don Young Forwards photograph to be autographed for Nick Camicia.
3. Charles Bennett Asks that the President send birthday message to James H. Johns.
4. Jim Santini Encloses photograph taken during the return flight from Las Vegas and asks that the President and Secretary Kissinger autograph it.
5. Paul Findley Supports invitation to the President to address the 34th annual meeting of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield, Illinois, on Sept 10.
6. The Maryland Congressional Delegation Support the invitation of the Isaak Walton League of the U. S. to address their National Convention to be held in Baltimore between July 14 and July 17.
7. Trent Lott Recommends that Joseph H. Torrence be appointed as Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.
8. George Mahon Recommends that Frank E. Denholm be appointed to the U. S. Court of Military Appeals.
9. Garner Shriver Greatly appreciated the President's wire while he was hospitalized in Hawaii; was also honored by the President's phone call on May 7; went home on May 8.



House - page 2

10. Thos. Downing Concerned about the serious plight of private shipyards having naval construction contracts-- particularly the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company. Says that the Shipyard refuses to bid on any further naval contracts unless it has a 50-50 chance of making a profit, since it has sustained a loss on nearly all of its recent contracts; encloses copy of a report by the Seapower Subcommittee on the House Comte on Armed Services on the "Current Status of Shipyards."
11. Philip Ruppe Urges the President to sign H. R. 25, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1975.
12. John Dingell Asks that the President call the White House Conference on Library and Information Services as soon as possible.
13. Bill Nichols In behalf of a constituent, urges the President to call the White House Conference on Library and Information Services as soon as possible.
14. Charles Bennett Asks that Presidential birthday greetings be sent to Mrs. Gracie Mae Whitman.
15. Charles Bennett Asks that Presidential birthday greetings be sent to Clarence E. Wetty.
16. Carroll Hubbard Recommends that C. V. Cooper be appointed to the Advisory Committee of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services.
17. Augustus Hawkins Asks that Presidential birthday greetings be sent to Mrs. Pearl Williams.
18. W. R. Poage Recommends that Frank E. Denholm be appointed to the U. S. Court of Military Appeals.
19. James Collins Asks that the President autograph a photograph for Mrs. Ray Nasher.



House - page 3

20. Edith Green
(former MC) Requests that her name be withdrawn from Board of Legal Services Corporation.
21. Norman Y. Mineta Sends copy of his letter to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs listing his objections to Governor Hathaway's nomination as Secretary of Interior.
22. Charles Bennett Requests that Presidential birthday greetings be sent to Allen T. Wilford.
23. Tennyson Guyer Urges the President to request the non-Communist member nations of the United Nations to join us in opening their doors and their hearts to the refugees from South Vietnam. Feels that this act of charity also holds mutual benefits. Just as these people need new homes and new starts in life, the sponsoring countries in turn may receive the fruits of their skills, professional services, technical and economic expertise.
24. Bryan Dorn
(former MC) Thanks President for "Your splendid telegram to banquet on April 14. . ."



1125AED 05-14

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7CAMBODIAN FORCES 360

WASHINGTON (AP) - CAMBODIA HAS VIRTUALLY NO AIR FORCE AND ONLY A TINY NAVY WITH WHICH TO OPPOSE ANY U.S. MILITARY EFFORT TO RETAKE OR DESTROY THE CAPTURED MERCHANT SHIP MAYAGUEZ; PENTAGON OFFICIALS SAID TODAY.

PILOTS LOYAL TO THE OUSTED CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT FLEW MOST OF THE U.S.-PROVIDED AIR FORCE INTO THAILAND AS THE KHMER ROUGE WERE TAKING PHNOM PENH IN APRIL.

A TOTAL OF 101 CAMBODIAN AIR FORCE CRAFT, INCLUDING MORE THAN 50 T28 PROPELLOR-DRIVEN GROUND ATTACK PLANES, ARE IN U.S. HANDS IN THAILAND.

WHATEVER MILITARY AIRCRAFT ARE LEFT IN CAMBODIA ARE BELIEVED TO BE MOSTLY UNFLYABLE. AMONG OTHER THINGS, PENTAGON OFFICIALS SAID THE NEW REGIME PROBABLY HAS FEW, IF ANY, PILOTS.

AT BEST, CAMBODIA'S AIR FORCE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A MATCH FOR THE ROUGHLY 200 POWERFUL U.S. FIGHTERS AND BOMBERS BASED IN THAILAND, AND 90 OTHERS ABOARD THE U.S. NAVY CARRIER CORAL SEA, WHICH IS BOUND FOR THE CRISIS SCENE IN THE GULF OF THAILAND.

AT SEA, THE CAMBODIAN NAVY IS COMPOSED OF A COLLECTION OF SOME 20 SEAGOING CRAFT, MOST OF THEM PATROL BOATS, GUNBOATS AND A FEW TORPEDO BOATS.

ALTHOUGH IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT SUCH CRAFT MIGHT INFLICT SOME MINOR DAMAGE, THE MOST LIKELY RESULT OF ANY KIND OF A NAVAL CLASH WITH AIRCRAFT AND SURFACE WARSHIPS OF THE 7TH FLEET WOULD BE DISASTER FOR THE CAMBODIANS.

THE UNITED STATES HAS NO GROUND TROOPS IN THAILAND EXCEPT THE SMALL FORCE OF MARINES SENT IN TO PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE MILITARY ACTION TO GET THE U.S. MERCHANT SHIP BACK FROM THE CAMBODIANS. THE 23,000 U.S. MILITARY MEN IN THAILAND ARE, FOR THE MOST PART, SUPPORTING U.S. AIR POWER IN THE COUNTRY.

HOWEVER, DESPITE THAILAND'S WARNINGS, NOBODY IN THE PENTAGON EXPECTS THE THAIS TO LAUNCH ANY MILITARY ACTION WITH THEIR 130,000-HAN ARMY AGAINST U.S. BASES THERE.

THE THAI AIR FORCE TOTALS MORE THAN 100 COMBAT PLANES BUT THE MOST POTENT ARE F5 INTERNATIONAL FIGHTERS, NO MATCH FOR THE BIG U.S. F4 PHANTOMS AND OTHER COMBAT PLANES IN THAILAND.

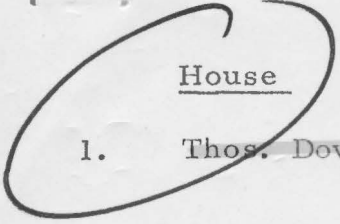
THAILAND HAS A BIGGER NAVY THAN CAMBODIA, INCLUDING SEVEN FRIGATES, BUT IT WOULD NOT CONTEST THE POWER OF THE U.S. 7TH FLEET.

1125AED 05-14



MAY 14 1975

Pull & Two Files
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Cambodia Open.
President's mail - May 14, 1975



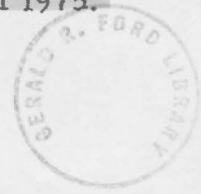
House

1. Thos. Downing

"You have my full support for any action under War Powers Act to effect immediate safe return of the MAYAGUEZ, the crew and cargo."

2. M. Caldwell Butler
Thos. Downing
William Wampler
Robert Daniel
J. Kenneth Robinson
W. C. Daniel
David Satterfield

Urge the President to veto H. R. 25, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1975.



3. Larry Pressler

Continues to believe that passage of the Emergency Farm Assistance Bill will be in the best interest of American agriculture; feels that the Farm Belt Republican Congressmen will have a difficult time aligning themselves with a 1976 national GOP ticket which produced a major farm veto.

4. Dan Daniel

Hopes that if the President vetoes the Emergency Farm Bill that consideration will be given without delay to the question of administrative relief for the milk producers.

5. Spark Matsunaga

Suggests that George Jessel receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom award.

6. Carl Perkins

Recommends that Eugene E. Siler, Jr. be appointed as U. S. District Judge for Eastern Kentucky.

7. Spark Matsunaga

Urges the President to accept invitation to serve as keynote speaker at the dedication ceremonies early this summer of the new national headquarters of the Japanese American Citizens League in S. F.

8. Harley Staggers

Expresses gratitude to the President for taking the time to meet with the West Virginia Strawberry Queen and her party last Friday.

9. Charles Bennett

Asks that birthday greetings be sent to Mrs. Ethel Adams and Tryphena Holloway.

House - page 2

10. John B. Conlan Sends the President a copy of his letter to the Romanian Ambassador expressing concern about reports of suppression of religious liberty in Romania and asking whether reports are true.
11. Walter Fauntroy Asks that the President pardon William B. Ellerbe who is seeking to have his dishonorable Army discharge of Nov 3, 1954, set aside.
12. Edward Koch Believes that when a regime is as repressive as that of South Korea, we must either take the necessary diplomatic action to end that repression or end the flow of our money and troops now supporting it; asks for the President's comments on this matter.
13. Albert Quie Understands that the President has been invited to join an extremely large gathering of Swedes when Svenskarnas Day is celebrated in Minneapolis; it would be a great thrill for many Minnesotans to hear from the President at that time; also, the Republican Party of Minnesota would be most anxious to hold a fund-raising event at that time.
14. John McFall Recommends that Frank E. Denholm be appointed to the U. S. Court of Military Appeals.
15. John E. Moss Endorses Nicholas B. Clinch for appointment as Director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in the Department of the Interior.
16. The Speaker Acknowledges receipt of the President's May 9 letter transmitting a justification for Presidential determination to permit security assistance to Spain.
17. L.A. Bafalis Recommends that Judge Peter T. Fay be appointed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.
18. Charles Bennett Asks that Presidential birthday greetings be sent to Mrs. H.G. Cowart.



Senate

- 1.S Thos. McIntyre On behalf of Seniors' Place in Nashua, N. H., extends an open invitation to the President to include this facility on his itinerary during any future trip he might take to the State.
- 2.S Howard Baker In behalf of the Union University (near Jackson, Tennessee), extends an invitation to the President to attend the dedication ceremonies of the new campus, during the week of Sept 15.
- 3.S Henry Jackson Urges the President to approve H. R. 25; believes that the bill achieves a balance between the need to protect the environment and the need to develop our coal reserves to meet our national energy requirements.
- 4.S John Stennis Recommends that John H. Holloman, III, be appointed to the FPC.
- 5.S Ted Stevens Recommends that Abbott Washburn be reappointed to the FCC.
- 6.S Robt Morgan Strongly urges that whatever action that is necessary be taken to recover the American ship which was seized by a Cambodian naval vessel. Does not believe that the moral fibre of this country can stand another Pueblo incident and also does not believe that our allies will continue to have any respect for us if we permit such incidents to continue.
- 7.S Barry Goldwater Conveys the interest of Bob Franklin of the Phoenix Lodge of the Elks in the President doing an eight minute tape for them for Flag Day.
- 8.S Mark Hatfield Thought that it would interest the President to know that he has discovered a source for copies of "Portrait of an Assassin." It is Second Story Books, located at 5016 Connecticut Avenue, N. W. These are mint copies, and supply is limited.



House - page 4

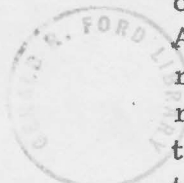
26. Bud Shuster

Urges the President to request international observers to board the MAYAGUEZ with us when we regain possession, so there can be no question but that we are "clean as a whistle" on this one.



House - page 3

19. **Bill Chappell** "Urge you give the Cambodian Communists 48 hours to return the MAYAGUEZ, crew and cargo or risk U. S. naval and air intervention." Believes that as long as Communist regimes believe that we as a nation lack the will or the military capacity to protect our legitimate int'l interests, these type of incidents will grow in number.
20. **John Paul Hammer-schmidt** "Believe it imperative that prompt, decisive measures be taken to recover MAYAGUEZ and crew. Friend and foe alike must recognize our foreign policy includes protecting our citizens and ships engaged in legitimate commerce on the high seas. . . You have my Congressional support for such action you consider necessary in this situation. "
21. **Walter B. Jones** Asks that consideration be given to the request of Charles D. Edwards who would like for the President to issue a proclamation in honor of Midgett Day on June 28.
22. **Romano Mazzoli** When the President receives the recommendations of the U. S. Int'l Trade Commission, urges that he approve the retention of current quota and tariff rates on broomcorn brooms, which are important to industries which employ the blind.
23. **George Miller** Supports invitation to the President from the mayor of the City of Richmond, California, regarding the dedication of the Social Security building and postal facility in that city in August.
24. **Charles B. Rangel** Thanks President for his kind words and hospitality at the state dinner in honor of President Kaunda. "I and millions of Black Americans felt a great sense of pride in your honoring of this distinguished Black African leader during the weekend of the American revolution. "The Congressional Black Caucus stands ready to assist the President in our nation's efforts to undo the mistakes of the past and build a new policy toward Africa, etc.
25. **Bill Frenzel** Recommends that Mel Heckt be reappointed to the President's Commission on Mental Retardation.



As a follow-up to our telephone call to you last night concerning the seizure of an American vessel in the Gulf of Thailand, I want to provide you in advance and on a private basis the following information which will be announced by the Department of Defense shortly after noon today.

Beginning at 8:30 p.m. EDT yesterday, there were indications that the Cambodians appeared to be attempting to move U. S. captive crewmen from the ship to the mainland. After giving warning and taking precautions to avoid injury to Americans, U.S. aircraft began efforts to block this movement. Three Cambodian patrol craft were destroyed and four others were damaged and immobilized. One boat succeeded in reaching Kompong Som, possibly with some U.S. captives aboard.

The MAYAGUEZ is still anchored off Koh Tang Island. The first U.S. Navy surface vessel, the destroyer escort HOLT, arrived in the area this morning. In the meantime, a Swedish refrigerator cargo ship, the MS HIRADO, was reportedly attacked by a patrol boat off Panjang Island, which is also claimed by Cambodia. Radio contact has been lost and the fate of this ship is unknown.

The NSC held a second meeting yesterday at 10:30 p.m. EDT and will meet again today. We will keep you informed.



May 21, 1975
#224

- 21 -

#244-5/21

Q Ron, when the intelligence analysis comes through, will that be made public?

MR. NESSEN: I am not clear about what intelligence analysis you are talking about.

Q Didn't the President order a review of the intelligence that was available in advance of the MAYAGUEZ incident?

MR. NESSEN: He asked to have some facts pulled together about the other two ships, which had encountered difficulties in that area. Is that what you mean?

Q I thought it was more extensive than that as to why there was not more adequate warning in advance. I thought it was a much more extensive analysis.

MR. NESSEN: No, it is not.

Q Ron, any analyzing why the Marines didn't know that island was so heavily fortified and why they did not sweep those radio frequency bands that Captain Miller was using to negotiate his own release that indicated where the crew was?

MR. NESSEN: I had not heard that Captain Miller made any --

Q Captain Miller told some reporters in Singapore that he personally was on the radio to someone on the mainland who was in touch with the Supreme Commander in an attempt to secure his release. Now, supposedly, in combat situations, military intelligence sweeps those frequencies.

MR. NESSEN: I had not heard about that, Phil.

Q Are you saying there is no wrap-up report on the whole incident in terms of the President?

MR. NESSEN: The President has asked for some -- I don't know that he has asked for it. I know that there is some -- what is being looked into really is more the technicalities of the operation.

I know that some of the equipment, for instance, on the Navy ships didn't operate properly. I think it would be fair to say that the operation is being reviewed to see whether anything needs to be improved in the forces that were used. I think that would be fair to say.

MORE

#224

Q Ron, have you figured out yet why it has taken so long to get this casualties business straightened out?

MR. NESSEN: That is something you really need to ask at the Pentagon, Bob. The President does understand that there were difficulties in getting these numbers together. He now feels that he has the accurate numbers. But why there was the delay, you need to ask at the Pentagon.

Q Ron, has he asked at the Pentagon?

MR. NESSEN: The Pentagon was aware of his feelings on the matter.

Phil?

Q The President has not characterized the casualty count yet. In your statement you indicated that he is certainly not alarmed. Is that a fair conclusion, that he is not bothered -- he didn't want any losses of life, but he is not bothered by the count?

MR. NESSEN: Oh, Phil, I think you know the President probably as well as anybody in this room, and you know that any loss of life would bother the President.

Q You know what I am talking about.

MR. NESSEN: I don't.

Q What appears to be a high count, 15 dead seems to be a high count for some people, but to the President, does this seem to be an excessive number of killed in action.

MR. NESSEN: He had hoped that none would be killed in action, Phil.

MORE

Q Does he consider the mission a success, still?

MR. NESSEN: The goal of the mission was to free the crew and the ship safely, and it accomplished that goal?

Q Ron, both the New Republic and Art Buchwald have raised this issue. If this protection is extended on the high seas to the MAYAGUEZ, what about the 132 boats that have been grabbed by the Equadorians?

MR. NESSEN: I think when that came up the other day, the same question, I think what I said was that that is being handled in a satisfactory way through diplomatic means.

Q You mean the Government anticipates that the Equadorians will stop grabbing our boats, or what?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't say that, I don't think.

Q I just would like to know, what do you mean it is being handled satisfactorily?

MR. NESSEN: Through the diplomatic methods.

Q Ron, do you have any reaction to the reports, the interviews with the crew of the MAYAGUEZ, that the Cambodians had offered to let them go back to the MAYAGUEZ and offered to free the crew and the ship half a day before the Marine assault -- in other words, Wednesday afternoon their time -- but that the Captain decided against it because the U.S. fighter planes were firing on patrol boats in the Gulf of Thailand?

MR. NESSEN: I had not heard that report, Ted.

Q It was in The New York Times today, and it was on the UPI wire yesterday.

MR. NESSEN: I didn't see it, but the feeling here is that by matching up the timetable of what the United States was doing with the timetable of what the Cambodians were doing, you will see -- or it is believed here at least -- that as the force was brought to bear the Cambodians gave way at each step and in fact freed the crew because of the use of force. I think the Captain of the MAYAGUEZ, from the quotations I read, shares that view.

Q Ron, did the President have the Republican leadership of the House and Senate in to dinner last night or after dinner last night?

MR. NESSEN: He had some Republicans from Congress in to dinner last night.

Q Who?

MR. NESSEN: What happened to that list?

Q What was the purpose of that?

MR. NESSEN: To talk about his Presidential campaign.

Q Ron, I would like to go back to the 23 that were killed in the crash of the helicopter in Thailand. You have taken this a step further than the Pentagon is willing to do by saying that they were for possible use in the MAYAGUEZ operation.

If they were for possible use in the MAYAGUEZ operation, and that is why they were going from point to point, why shouldn't they be included in the casualty total, bringing it up from 15 to 38 dead?

In other words, if they had been put on this helicopter and taken from place to place because they were possibly going to be used in this operation, and that is when they were killed, why aren't they being included in the total of the dead? Otherwise, they would not have been killed.

MR. NESSEN: Your question is, why were they not included in the total of people killed in the operation to free the MAYAGUEZ, and they were not in the operation to free the MAYAGUEZ.

Q They had been put on a helicopter, in effect alerted, mobilized, whatever you want to call it, for possible use in that operation; 23 of them are killed but you are only reporting 15 dead in the operation. Why aren't they being included?

MR. NESSEN: They were not in the operation, Jim.

Q Ron, in view of the President's opposition to the new Federal spending at all sorts of levels, what does he think of the House of Representatives deciding to give itself more staff, more newsletters, and more trips home at public expense?

MR. NESSEN: He mentioned this morning that he thought it was interesting that they could find the time to do that but they could not find the time to do anything on the energy bill.

Q Does he think it is a wise way to spend the taxpayers' money?

MR. NESSEN: That was not the thrust of his comment. His comment was about the time it took and the attention it attracted rather than the money involved.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.


END

(AT 1:08 P.M. EDT)

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

August 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JOHN MARSH
FROM: LES JANKA 
SUBJECT: The Unsinkable Mayaguez

Attached for your information are two letters from Chairman Sparkman to State and CIA requesting information on the Mayaguez incident; the SFRC is undertaking its own independent assessment of this event.

A copy of State's response is also attached. The Situation Reports requested were handed over, since they already had been provided to the GAO. A copy of CIA's response will be provided when available.



MIRE MANSFIELD, MONT.
FRANK C. RUTENFRANZ, MO.
EDWARD STEWART, N.J.
CLAUDE B. BURNETT, N.C.
GAIL W. MC GEE, WYO.
GEORGE MC DONALD, S. CAR.
ROBERT M. DUMPHREY, MINN.
DICK CLARK, IOWA
JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DEL.

CLIFFORD P. CASE, N.J.
JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.
HUGH SCOTT, PA.
JAMES R. EARL, KANS.
CHARLES M. PEROT, ILL.
ROBERT F. CRIFFIN, MICH.
HOWARD M. BAKER, JR., TENN.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

PAT M. HOLY, CHIEF OF STAFF
ARTHUR M. KUHL, CHIEF CLERK

July 30, 1975

The Honorable
William E. Colby
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

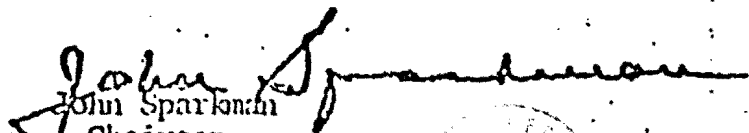
Dear Mr. Colby:

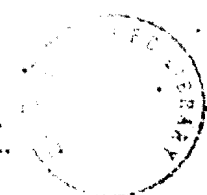
Pursuant to executive session discussions of the Committee on Foreign Relations, I wish to request the following materials required by the Committee in connection with its review of the Mayaguez affair:

1. A detailed chronology of all events related to the Mayaguez affair of which the Central Intelligence Agency has knowledge.
2. A copy of all situation reports prepared on the Mayaguez by the Central Intelligence Agency.
3. A description of all intelligence information bearing on attitudes, expressions and actions of the new Cambodian government or its authorities regarding border questions and territorial waters prior to and during the Mayaguez episode.
4. A description of all intelligence information bearing on the attitude of the new Cambodian government or its authorities regarding the seizure of the Mayaguez and with regard to U.S. actions during the time it was being held.

Your cooperation in providing these materials will be appreciated.

Sincerely,


John Sparkman
Chairman



JOHN SPARKMAN, ALA., CHAIRMAN

MRS. VAN DUSEN, IDAHO
FRANK SPOFFORD, IDAHO
ESTLINT BRYANSTON, MO.
CLAUDINE PHELPS, R.I.
GAIL N. MCCOY, WYO.
STANLEY MCQUEEN, S. DAK.
ROBERT H. HUMPHREY, MINN.
DICK CLARK, IOWA
JOSEPH R. SIDEN, JR., DEL.

CLIFFORD P. CASE, N.J.
JAMES K. JAMES, N.Y.
HUGH BOYD, PA.
JAMES B. PEARSON, KANS.
CHARLES H. PERCY, ILL.
ROBERT P. DRIPPIN, MICH.
HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., TENN.

FAT M. MOLT, CHIEF OF STAFF
ARTHUR M. KUHL, CHIEF CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

7515440

July 30, 1975

The Honorable
Henry A. Kissinger
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

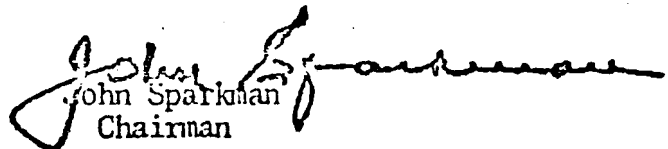
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Pursuant to executive session discussions of the Committee on Foreign Relations, I wish to request the following materials required by the Committee in connection with its review of the Mayaguez affair:

1. A detailed chronology of all events related to the Mayaguez affair of which the Department of State has knowledge.
2. A copy of all situation reports prepared by the Department of State during the incident.
3. A detailed description of U.S. diplomatic efforts to obtain information regarding the ship and crew, or to obtain their release.

Your cooperation in providing these materials will be appreciated.

Sincerely,


John Sparkman
Chairman



VIR
H.

UNCLASSIFIED
With Secret Enclosures

Honorable John Sparkman
Chairman, Committee on
Foreign Relations
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of July 30 requesting materials for the Committee's review of the Mayaguez affair. I am please to provide the following in response to each request as indicated below.

1. A detailed Chronology of all events related to the Mayaguez Affair of which the Department of State has knowledge.

Enclosed is a "Chronology of Events of the Mayaguez Incident."

2. A copy of all situation reports prepared by the Department of State during the incident.

Enclosed are copies of the "Mayaguez Situation Reports" of the Department's Mayaguez Working Group which are classified SECRET.

3. A detailed description of U.S. diplomatic efforts to obtain information regarding the ship and crew, or to obtain their release.

On Monday, May 12 shortly after the NSC meeting and the White House statement demanding the immediate release of the ship, the Department requested the Head of the Chinese Liaison Office here in Washington to call at the Department. The meeting took place at 4:30 p.m. When the Chinese refused to accept a message to the Cambodians demanding the release of the crew and ship, we instructed our Liaison Office in Peking that same day to pass the message to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs there as well as directly to the Cambodian diplomatic mission in Peking. We had received no reply by the end of the second day (Tuesday, May 13) at which time the first military

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2.

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With Secret Enclosures

operations began. These operations were directed at Cambodian patrol boats that were trying to transit between the Mayaguez, the Cambodian mainland and Koh Tang Island.

The next morning, Wednesday, May 14 (about 7:15 a.m., EDT), we learned that the Chinese authorities in Peking had returned undelivered to our Liaison Office in Peking our message to the Cambodians. We still had received no response to the message we delivered directly to the Cambodians in Peking. Shortly after midday on May 14, we delivered a letter to UN Secretary General Waldheim concerning the action requesting him to take steps to bring about the safe return of the Mayaguez and crew.

On the evening of May 14, we informed a number of Embassies here in Washington, and the UN Security Council, that we were taking certain military actions to secure release of the Mayaguez and its crew.


A Cambodian domestic broadcast indicating that the Mayaguez would be ordered to withdraw from Cambodian territorial waters but which made no mention of the disposition of the crew was received in Washington shortly after 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14.

After learning of this message, we announced that as soon as the Cambodian authorities would issue a statement that they were prepared to release the crew members unconditionally and immediately, we would promptly cease military operations. The Cambodian authorities did not issue any such statement. We were not certain that the Cambodians had in fact released the entire crew until some three hours after receiving the domestic broadcast.

Still later that night we learned that the message we had delivered to the Cambodians in Peking had been routinely sent back through the mail.

I am also pleased to provide you a copy of a recent statement made by Acting Secretary Ingersoll in open session before the Subcommittee on International Political and Military Affairs of the House International Relations Committee, a letter from me to the Chairman of the House International Relations Committee on June 18 and a letter from me to Senator Brooke on June 20.

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3

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to write.

Sincerely,

Robert J. McCloskey
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosures:

As stated

BS
Drafted: EA/LC:BSKirkpatrick:dtm
8/7/75 x23132 #7515440

Clearances: S/S - Mr. Kuchel *BS*
H - Mr. Schnee
EA - Mr. Miller (draft) *BS*
NSC - Mr. Janka *BS*

NOTE: Mr. Kuchel has no objection to showing distribution on situation reports.

Mayaguez

August 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DON RUMSFELD
FROM: JACK MARSH

The President told me to give you this. He wants to write a letter to each member of the Mayaguez crew.

Attachment-- copy of Presidential note "write each Mayaguez crew member"

JOM/dl



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Write each Mayaguez
crew number.

1 . 1 . 1

JUN 14 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM: WILLIAM T. KENDALL

SUBJECT: Senator Javits and the War Powers Act

Senator Javits' note to the President has little relationship to what he said before the House Subcommittee. A copy of each is attached for your perusal.

CL-100-1-11



JACOB K. JAVITS
NEW YORK

5-20

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 16, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

MA

Just a note of thanks for receiving me, Ben Gilman and the representatives of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Committee on Tuesday. I deeply appreciate your courtesies especially during such a critical period involving the Mayaguez.

The representatives of the group shared my opinion that the occasion was moving and an expression of your commitment to the survival of Israel and peace throughout the world.

With warm best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

RECEIVED
JUN 3 1975
CENTRAL FILES

The War Powers Resolution stood up well in this crisis and I wanted you to know I felt you were pleased, too!

COPY

CRITICISM FOR FAILING TO PROPERLY CONSULT CONGRESS BEFORE ORDERING MILITARY FORCE TO RESCUE THE AMERICAN FREIGHTER MAYAGUEZ AND ITS CREW FROM CAMBODIA.

DISSATISFACTION ON CAPITOL HILL HAS REACHED THE POINT -- DESPITE SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY OF THE SHIP AND CREW -- THAT REP. JOHN SEIBERLING, D-OHIO, AND SEN. THOMAS EAGLETON, D-MO., INTRODUCED AMENDMENTS TO COMPEL THE PRESIDENT IN FUTURE EMERGENCIES TO SEEK "THE ADVICE AND COUNSEL" OF CONGRESS.

SEN. JACOB JAVITS, R-N.Y., A PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT OF THE WAR POWERS ACT UNDER WHICH CONSULTATION ALREADY IS REQUIRED, TOLD A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING WEDNESDAY:

"IT IS CLEAR THAT, WITH RESPECT TO THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT, ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESS BY THE PRESIDENT FELL FAR SHORT OF THE INTENTIONS OF THOSE WHO DRAFTED THE LEGISLATION AND THOSE WHO VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY FOR IT IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS."

JAVITS TOLD THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE THAT "PROFOUND QUESTIONS" HAD BEEN RAISED IN THIS USE OF MILITARY FORCE. HE ALSO SAID "THE AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT BY OUR MARINES WAS CONDUCTED AGAINST THE WRONG ISLAND, 20 MINUTES AFTER THE CREW HAD BEEN RELEASED."

MONROE LEIGH, STATE DEPARTMENT LEGAL ADVISER, DEFENDED THE FORD ADMINISTRATION AGAINST CONGRESSIONAL ACCUSATIONS OF FAILING TO PROPERLY CONSULT.

HE TOLD THE SUBCOMMITTEE THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS WHO INFORMED LEGISLATORS OF FORTHCOMING U.S. ACTIONS PASSED ON ANY DISSENTING VIEWS TO THE PRESIDENT.

UPI 06-05 09:21 AED

UP-016

(COMMON MARKET)

LONDON (UPI) -- BRITONS TODAY HELD THEIR FIRST NATIONAL REFERENDUM TO DECIDE WHETHER TO REMAIN IN THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET AND PERMANENTLY TIE THEIR HOPES FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND PROSPERITY TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST TRADING BLOC.

PRIME MINISTER HAROLD WILSON ORDERED THE VOTE TO RESOLVE ONCE AND FOR ALL AN ISSUE THAT HAS DIVIDED THE COUNTRY FOR NEARLY A GENERATION -- WHETHER BRITAIN SHOULD TRY TO REVIVE ITS SAGGING POSTWAR ECONOMY AS A MEMBER OF THE NINE-NATION COMMUNITY.

THE NATION'S 40 MILLION VOTERS WERE ASKED TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, "DO YOU THINK THE UNITED KINGDOM SHOULD STAY IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (COMMON MARKET)?" WITH A "YES" OR "NO."

WILSON, WHO CAMPAIGNED VIGOROUSLY FOR A "YES" VOTE, SAID HIS LABOR GOVERNMENT WILL ACCEPT THE DECISION AS FINAL AND BINDING.

THE POLLS WERE OPEN IN ENGLAND, WALES, SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND FROM 7 A.M. (2 A.M. EDT) TO 10 P.M. (5 P.M. EDT).

UPI 06-05 09:23 AED

UP-017

(FORD)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD TOLD HIS DAUGHTER SUSAN AND HER GRADUATING CLASSMATES TODAY THEY ARE ENTERING "A NEW ERA FOR WOMEN IN AMERICA." HE AGAIN URGED RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

"BEFORE AMERICA COMPLETES ITS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, I HOPE THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT WILL BE PART OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION," FORD SAID IN REMARKS PREPARED FOR COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AT HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL.

"FOR ERA ALSO STANDS FOR A NEW ERA FOR WOMEN IN AMERICA -- AN ERA OF EQUAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND REWARDS."

As you note in your question, historically there have been cycles in Executive-Congressional assertiveness.

It is also important to note that this Congressional assertiveness is not directed solely at the Executive, but also at many institutions of the Congress. This is becoming more evident in the last several Congresses.

The Budget Committee is not directed solely at the Executive, but arises from a great Congressional concern about the manner in which Congress is facing up to the whole question of allocation of Federal expenditures.

Concerning the impact of legislative actions on Executive authority, I would refer to the Address that the President made to the Joint Session of Congress on Foreign Policy and Defense in March. He sets out in some detail areas where Congress should review its previous actions and take steps to remedy certain legislative policies that have adversely affected the conduct of our foreign policy. The President's own comments, I think, are the best source of information on this question.

As I pointed out, there are several factors that contribute to Congressional assertion of power: (1) a growing concern that goes back many years about the balance between the Executive and the Congress; (2) the post-Watergate environment; (3) the post-Vietnam environment; (4) the November results which produced swollen majorities in the new Congress.

As both Watergate and Vietnam fades into the past and as we move further into this Session with the Congress having to actually deal with many of the difficult questions we face, I think we may see a reassessment and moderation of an anti-Executive attitude. In fact, it should be noted that the Senate just recently passed, although by a narrow margin, legislation that would lift the prohibition on military aid to Turkey.

You asked precisely about the War Powers Act. As I pointed out, there is a division of opinion as to the applicability of the War Powers Act and the recent situations involving Cambodia and Vietnam, including the Mayaguez incident. We sought to proceed here in such a way as to be within the provisions of the Act, even if it did not apply without admitting that it did.

In reference to its impact, I think we would have to divide that into two areas: the mechanical one and the policy one. I can try and give some thoughts on the mechanics, but I think you should direct your questions on the policy aspects to those other than myself.

At the outset, I would say that the attitude here was best expressed by the President when he affirmed we would abide by the provisions of the law. Most people think that the only possible War Powers situation that arose was the Mayaguez incident. Actually we proceeded as though the War Powers Act were applicable in four incidents during the Vietnam-Cambodian exercise.

On at least two occasions, the Congress was in recess which required communication by cable, telegram or frequently long distance phone calls to Members spread out not only across the United States, but around the world.

It seems also that the developments in the Vietnam area often occurred during daylight hours there, which with the 12-hour difference, made many of our calls, even when the Congress was here, in the late night or early morning hours.

We found frequently when the time came to file our reports as required by the law, that the House and Senate had adjourned and there was difficulty in being able to make delivery of the report to the chief officials of the Congress as required by the law either at their places of residence or their designated chief assistants. I recognize that delivery by dropping it with a guard or at a letter drop at the Capitol would be sufficient; however, because of the nature of the report, we were concerned about physical delivery.

The many questions that were raised as to what is consultation, with whom is it made, when is it made, raises the question in my mind as to the criteria Congress should apply to legislation that seeks to oversee the Executive's action. In effect does the legislative proposal impose limitations so that effective Executive action is impeded in an area where the Executive has a Constitutional power or duty to act?

Although we reserve the question as to whether the War Powers Act was applicable, nevertheless these recent incidents do indicate that if it were, a question is raised as to whether its observance does not pose problems for effective

Executive action in a crisis type situation where the Executive has a duty to act and such action must be done swiftly. In each of these cases, we feel we were able to comply with the Statute but it is easy to envision some circumstances where compliance might be difficult even when the Executive is making a good faith effort to comply. This difficulty is more likely to occur on the consultation requirements than it is on the reporting requirements. The difference is likely to be one of opinion as to what the Executive should have done insofar as the Congress is concerned as opposed to what the Executive believed it was able to do given the circumstances involved.

[5/15/75]

PRO

May 13, 1975

Dear Senator:

Thank you for your May 12 letter to the President concerning the American ship which was seized on the high seas yesterday.

You may be assured your letter will be called to the President's attention at the earliest opportunity. I know that he will appreciate learning that you support necessary action to obtain the release of this vessel.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

William F. Kendall
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Robert Morgan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: w/incoming to Gen. Brent Scowcroft for your information.

WTK:EF:VO:vo



ROBERT MORGAN
NORTH CAROLINA

HAND DELIVERED

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 12, 1975

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I strongly urge that whatever action that is necessary be taken to recover the American ship which was seized on the high seas by a Cambodian naval vessel. I do not believe that the moral fibre of this country can stand another Pueblo incident and do not believe that our allies will continue to have any respect for us if we permit such incidents to continue.

I realize the critical situation you have with Congress, but you may count on me for whatever support necessary.

Respectfully,

Robert Morgan
Robert Morgan

MF

no further
communication

May 15, 1975

Dear Gene:

Thank you for the May 14 telegram to the President advising him of your support of any action he deemed appropriate to obtain possession of the MAYAGUEZ and liberate its crew.

I know that you were gratified to learn that the steps the President took achieved both of these objectives.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon C. Loon
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Gene Taylor
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

bcc: w/incoming to Gen. Scowcroft for your information

VCL:EF:VO:vo



The White House
Washington

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1975 MAY 15 AM 6 44

11075 GOVT BUWASHINGTON DC 117 05-14 650P EDT


PMS HONORABLE GERALD R FORD

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

WHITE HOUSE DC

BT

I URGE THAT YOU EXERCISE ALL AUTHORITY AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES TO USE WHATEVER MILITARY ACTION IS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN THE RELASE OF THE US MERCHANT SHIP, MAYAGUEZ, THAT HAS BEEN ILLEGALLY PIRATED ON THE HIGH SEAS BY THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA. AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS I WILL FULLY SUPP?RT YOU IN ANY ACTION THAT YOU MAY DEEM NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF OUR NATION AND TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE WORLD OUR DETERMINATION



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TO RESIST ANY FURTHER DEPLORABLE ACTS IN THE FUTURE.
ONLY BY THIS KIND OF FIRM AND POSITIVE ACTION WILL WE SERVE NOTICE
TO THE WORLD THAT WE WILL NOT BE PUSHED AROUND BY A BAND OF
INTERNATIONAL OUTLAWS.

GENE TAYLOR MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

NNNN



May 14, 1975

Dear Bill:

This is just a note to acknowledge receipt of your very affirmative message of today's date to the President in support of the necessary steps he is taking to ensure the safety of the crew and the release of the merchant vessel.

I want to assure you that I shall call it to the President's attention without delay. I know he will appreciate hearing from you.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon C. Loon
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Bill Alexander
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

bcc: w/incoming to General Scowcroft for your information

VCL:EF:VO:vo



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7 PMS HON GERALD R FORD

8 WHITE HOUSE DC

9
10 I APPLAUD YOUR EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF AMERICAN VESSELS TO
11 SAFE TRANSIT ON THE HIGH SEAS. OUR ALLIES AND ADVERSARIES ALIKE
12 MUST BE ASSURED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL DEFEND THE LIVES
13 AND PROPERTY OF AMERICANS.

14 SAFETY OF WORLD COMMERCE IS VITAL TO THE US AS WELL AS OTHER
15 NATIONS AND ACTS OF PIRACY MUST BE MET WITH APPROPRIATE FORCE TO
16 DISCOURAGE A CONTINUED DETERIORATION OF GLOBAL STABILITY.

17
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21 SINCERELY.

22 BILL ALEXANDER MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

23
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25 NNNN
26



May 13, 1975

Dear Mr. Downing:

This will acknowledge receipt and thank you for your May 12 telegram to the President stating that he has your full support under provisions of the War Powers Act to effect the return of the American ship seized by the Cambodians.

Please be assured your message will be called promptly to the President's attention.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon G. Loun
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Thomas M. Downing
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: w/coming to General Brent Scowcroft for appropriate handling

VCL:EF:VO:vo



The White House
Washington

WH 153 (1649) (1-935 133A 132) PB 05/12/75 1639

ICS IPWJANA 7SH 075 MAY 12 PM 5 42

- 11046 GOVT BUREAU WASHINGTON DC 22 05-12 527P EDT

PMS HONORABLE GERALD FORD

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

WHITE HOUSE DC

YOU HAVE MY FULL SUPPORT FOR ANY ACTION UNDER WAR POWERS

ACT TO EFFECT IMMEDIATE SAFE RETURN OF MAYAGUEZ, CREW AND

CARGO.

THOMAS N CONNING MC.

BT

BT

BT

BT

BT

BT



May 13, 1975

Dear John Paul:

This will acknowledge receipt of your telegram of today's date to the President expressing your grave concern over the seizure of the American ship on the high seas.

I know the President will appreciate having your support of such efforts as he may deem essential to ensure its return.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon C. Loeb
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable
John Paul Hammerschmidt
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: w/incoming to General Scowcroft for appropriate handling

VCL:EF:VO:va



WHA238(12J5)(1-815357A133)PD 05/13/75 1204

ICS IPWUAWA WSH

DEC 15 11 1 09

11428 GOVT BUWASHINGTON DC 68 05-13 1249P EDT

PMS HON GERALD FORD PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE DC

BELIEVE IT IMPERATIVE THAT PROMPT, DECISIVE MEASURES BE TAKEN TO
RECOVER MAYAQUEZ AND CREW.

FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE MUST RECOGNIZE OUR FOREIGN POLICY INCLUDES
PROTECTING OUR CITIZENS AND SHIPS ENGAGED IN LEGITIMATE
COMMERCE ON THE HIGH SEAS. ACTS OF PIRACY MUST NOT AND CANT NOT
BE TOLERATED. YOU HAVE MY CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR SUCH
ACTION YOU CONSIDER NECESSARY IN THIS SITUATION.

JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

NNNN



May 15, 1975

Dear Skip:

Thank you for your May 14 telegram to the President commending him for the steps he took to regain possession of the MAYAGUEZ and liberate its crew.

I will be pleased to call your message to the President's attention at the earliest opportunity.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon C. Loon
Deputy Assistant
to the President

~~The Honorable L.A. (Skip) Bafalis~~
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

bcc: w/incoming to Gen. Scowcroft - FYI

VCL:EF:VO:vo



The White House
Washington

WHB 426(1624)(1-033130A 134) PD 05/14/75 1623
1975 MAY 14 PM 5 39

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5 ICS IPMJAWA WSH

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7 11064 GOVT BUWASHINGTON DC 49 05-14 504P EDT

8 PMS HONORABLE GERALD R FORD

9 OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

10
11 WHITE HOUSE DC

12 MR PRESIDENT, I WANT YOU TO KNOW I APPLAUD AND SUPPORT

13
14 WHOLEHEARTEDLY YOUR ACTIONS IN PROTECTION THE LIVES AND PROPERTY

15 OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. I AM POSITIVE THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE

16
17 AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ANY EFFORT TO FINALLY

18 PREVENT THIRD RATE NATIONS FROM STEPPING ALL OVER AMERICA.

19
20 L A SKIP BAFALIS MC.

21
22
23 NNNN



May 13, 1975

Dear Bud:

This will acknowledge receipt of your telegram to the President of today's date urging that international observers board the **MAYAGUEZ** when we regain possession to confirm the fact that this was nothing more than a merchant vessel.

You may be assured your message will be called to the President's attention at the earliest opportunity.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon C. Loon
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Bud Shuster
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

bcc: w/incoming to General Scowcroft for appropriate handling

VCL:EF:VO:va



WHA310(1440)(1-926220A133)PD 05/13/75 1449

ICS IP MUAWA WSH

JUN 15 PM 3 47

11042 GOVT BU WASHINGTON DC 37 95-13 3247 EDT

PMS THE PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE DC

DEAR MR PRESIDENT:

URGE YOU TO REQUEST INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS TO BOARD THE
MAYAGUEZ WITH US WHEN WE REGAIN POSSESSION, SO THERE CAN BE NO
QUESTION BUT THAT WE ARE "CLEAN AS A WHISTLE" ON THIS ONE.

SINCERELY,

BUD SHUSTER MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

NNNN



May 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: LT. GEN. BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: WILLIAM T. KENDALL

SUBJECT: Telegram to the President
~~from Senator Pete Domenici~~

I have acknowledged receipt of this message by telephone and advised the Senator of current U. S. action in re the seizure of the merchant ship. The telegram is being forwarded to you for your information.



5-14

WHA449(2001)(1-941997A133)PD 05/13/75 1958

ICS IPMNAWA WSH

015 MAY 13 PM 9 05

10086 GOVT NFWASHINGTON DC 100 05-13 852P EDT

PMS THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WHITEHOUSE DC

MR. PRESIDENT. NO REASON EXISTS FOR THE UNITED STATES TO

TOLERATE

THE ACT OF PIRACY PERPETRATED BY CAMBODIA AGAINST AMERICAN MEN AND AN AMERICAN VESSEL. I URGE YOU AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF TO TAKE WHAT-

EVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO RETRIEVE THE SHIP AND OUR MEN. IF ANY-THING IS NEEDED FROM CONGRESS TO SUPPORT YOUR ACTION, THIS SENATOR

IS READY TO ACT. FURTHER DELAY APPEARS TO RISK THE LIVES OF

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINES AND ERODE THE INTERNATIONAL INTEGRITY OF

AMERICA'S TRADITIONAL FREEDOM OF THE SEAS. THIS CAN ONLY LEAD

TO CONTINUED HARASSMENT AND CHALLENGE TO AMERICA'S POSITION AS

LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD.

PETE V DOMENICI UNITED STATES SENATOR

NNNN



CON

OTHER

May 13, 1975

Dear Mr. Chappell:

This will acknowledge receipt of your telegram of today's date to the President urging that strong measures be taken to ensure the return of the American ship, crew and cargo seized by the Cambodians on the high seas yesterday.

Please be assured your message will be called to the President's attention without delay.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon C. Loon
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Bill Chappell
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

bcc: w/incoming to General Brent Scowcroft for appropriate handling

VCL:EF:VO:vo



WHB 222(1133)(1-014134A133)PD 05/13/75 1132

ICS IPWANA WSH

05 MAR 13 PM 12 40

11022 GOVT BU WASHINGTON DC 62 05-13 1149A EOT

PMS GERALD R. FORD PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE DC

URGE YOU GIVE THE CAMBODIAN COMMUNISTS 48 HOURS TO RETURN
MAYAGUEZ, CREW AND CARGO TO AMERICAN OWNERS OR RISK UNITED
STATES NAVAL AND AIR INTERVENTION. AS LONG AS COMMUNIST
REGIMES BELIEVE THAT WE AS A NATION LACK THE WILL OR THE
MILITARY CAPACITY TO PROTECT OUR LEGITIMATE INTERNATIONAL
INTERESTS, THESE TYPE INCIDENTS WILL GROW IN NUMBER AT MORE
FREQUENT INTERVALS. SINCERELY YOURS.

BILL CHAPPELL CONGRESSMAN.

NNNN



May 15, 1975

Dear Mr. Hanley:

This will acknowledge receipt of your May 13 telegram to the President asking that a briefing be provided to Members of Congress concerning the action taken with respect to the merchant vessel MAYAGUEZ and its crew.

This morning the President has sent a communication concerning this matter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Members will undoubtedly be advised today.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon C. Loon
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable James M. Hanley
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

VCL:EF:VO:vo



5-14

The White House
Washington

WHB 140(1120)(1-012419A 134)PD 05/14/75 1120

ICS IPMUAWA WSH

1975 MAY 14 PM 12 25

11014 GOVT BUWASHINGTON DC 62 05-14 1122A EDT

PMS THE PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE DC

WITH REGARD TO THE CONFISCATION OF THE AMERICAN SHIP AND
PERSONNEL IN CAMBODIAN WATERS, IN RECOGNITION OF THE
SERIOUSNESS OF THIS PROBLEM I RESPECTFULLY URGE THAT YOU
CONSIDER PROMPTLY PROVIDING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH
A BRIEFING. I FIND CONSTITUENT INTEREST TO BE INTENSE AND AM
SURE THAT, LIKE MYSELF, ALL MEMBERS WOULD APPRECIATE THE
ABILITY TO DEVELOP A KNOWLEDGEABLE BACKGROUND. RESPECTFULLY.

JAMES M HANLEY MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

NNNN



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF
FROM: BOB WOLTHUIS **BW**
SUBJECT: S.S. Mayaguez Incident - Report to
Congress War Powers Resolution

The subject report was delivered to the Legislative Assistant to the President Pro Tem of the Senate, Bill Simpson, at 2:05 a.m. at his home.

June 13, 1975
File

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
THRU: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M. L. F.*
FROM: WILLIAM T. KENDALL *WTK*
SUBJECT: Delivery of the War Powers Letter
relative to the Mayaquez incident

On May 15, 1975 at 2:30 a.m., I delivered a copy of the letter to the office of Senator James O. Eastland, Senate Pro Tempore, from the President reporting on the Mayaquez incident as required under the War Powers Act.

Delivery was accomplished in the following manner: When I arrived at the Dirksen Office Building, I was informed by the Capitol Police that I could not proceed to the office. Instead, I signed the blotter registering with the police, as required by their rules, and was allowed to drop the letter into the box labelled "Inside Mail". I was assured that this would reach the Senator's office before the office opened for business on May 15, 1975.