

**The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “Cambodia - Mayaguez Seizure (1)” of NSA Kissinger - Scowcroft West Wing Office Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



13 May 75

Lora:

I have transcribed my telcons from tonight. I didn't monitor all the calls back and forth to Defense Dept. but these do include all the Presidential calls of tonight along with one with the President during the early morning hours.

There may have been others with the President from last night/early am -- this could be checked with Anne or Marilyn.

Bud suggested these be held -- at least until the crisis is over -- they may be needed for record-check purposes.

Wilma

General Scowcroft/The President  
2:23 a.m., May 13, 1975

S: Mr. President, I am sorry to bother you.

P: That's all right.

S: I told the people I was to be notified the minute the ship moved. It is now underway and it is 15 minutes out of Kampong Som.

P: What happened?

S: I am so mad, I'm just -- I have asked them to have any F-4s from Thailand launched. I don't think there is a chance of intercepting them now. At 12 knots, it is about an hour out of port. There is no evidence of escort vessels. If we can get any fighters in the air, we could fire across the bow and attempt to turn it around.

P: I think that is all we can do if there are no surface vessels there.

S: We certainly don't . . . With your approval, Mr. President, if we can get some planes in the air --

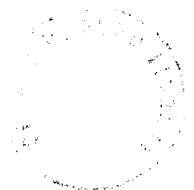
P: I think you ought to try that. It doesn't seem to me there is any other alternative, Brent. But dammit, they hadn't better sink it now!!!

S: No, sir, that would be disastrous.

P: That would be the ultimate in stupidity. You tell them to do that, Brent. I will see you -- what time is it? I don't even know.

S: It is 2:25. I will call you if anything unusual takes place.

P: Don't hesitate to do that, Brent. Thank you.



The President/General Scowcroft  
8:10 p.m., May 13, 1975

P: Hello

S: Mr. President.

P: Yes, Brent.

S: I just have one quick one. Three little boats have taken off toward the northeast. One boat has been sunk. The second has turned back and the third is continuing at full speed. If they can't stop it any other way, we have no choice but to destroy it.

P: I think we have no choice.

S: It is obvious they know what we want.

P: No, I think you should. If we don't do it, it is an indication of some considerable weakness.

S: No question about it.

P: I think we should just give it to them.

S: To show them we mean business.

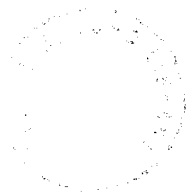
P: I am glad they got the first two. I think we ought to take the action on the third one.

S: Thank you, Sir.

General Wickham/General Scowcroft  
8:15 p.m., May 13, 1975

S: He (the President) says yes, they have got to be stopped. If they can't do it any other way, it has to be destroyed.

W: We may lose the thing here in the next few minutes.  
All right, Brent.



General Wickham/General Scowcroft  
9:48 p.m., May 13, 1975

W: We have got one of these little boats five miles off Kampong Som. No aircraft around with RCA. They have expended. Pilot reports a group of what looks like Caucasians huddled on the bow. He made several passes. The pilot thinks he could probably disable it by hitting it in the rear. Can we get Presidential approval?

S: Do you need it? He's already . . .

W: Well, now we have a question as to the identity of the people on the bow. Do we want to stop them and possibly sink the boat? Why don't you run it by the President. I have an open line to them and you can get right back to me.



The President/General Scowcroft  
9:50 p.m., May 13, 1975

- S: We have another boat. There is one survivor in a raft. I don't know whether they have picked him up or not. We have just had a report that on one of the boats which is five miles off Kampong Som there may be some Caucasians held in the front. The pilot thinks he can stop it without sinking it.
- P: Right. As I understand it, one fled and got to another island and then we sank the one and the third one is the one you are discussing.
- S: Yeah.
- P: Well, I don't think we have any choice.
- S: If they get the Americans to the mainland they have hostages and . . .
- P: We have to predicate all these actions on the possibility of losing Americans.
- S: I will have them ask the pilot to do his best to stop it without sinking it.
- P: I think that is right. I will be over there in about 15 minutes.
- S: I will have the Defense Department Option Paper by then.
- P: Okay, Brent.

General Wickham/General Scowcroft  
9:54 p.m., May 13, 1975

S: Go ahead, John. Have the pilot to disable it and not to sink it.

W: All right, Brent.





[Stamp]

2

Data Sheet Regarding U. S. Vessel Picked Up By Cambodians

Name of Vessel: Mayaquez

Registration: American, belonging to the Sealand Corporation

Nationality of Crew: Reportedly 39 crewmen of U. S. nationality.

Type of Vessel: Container Ship

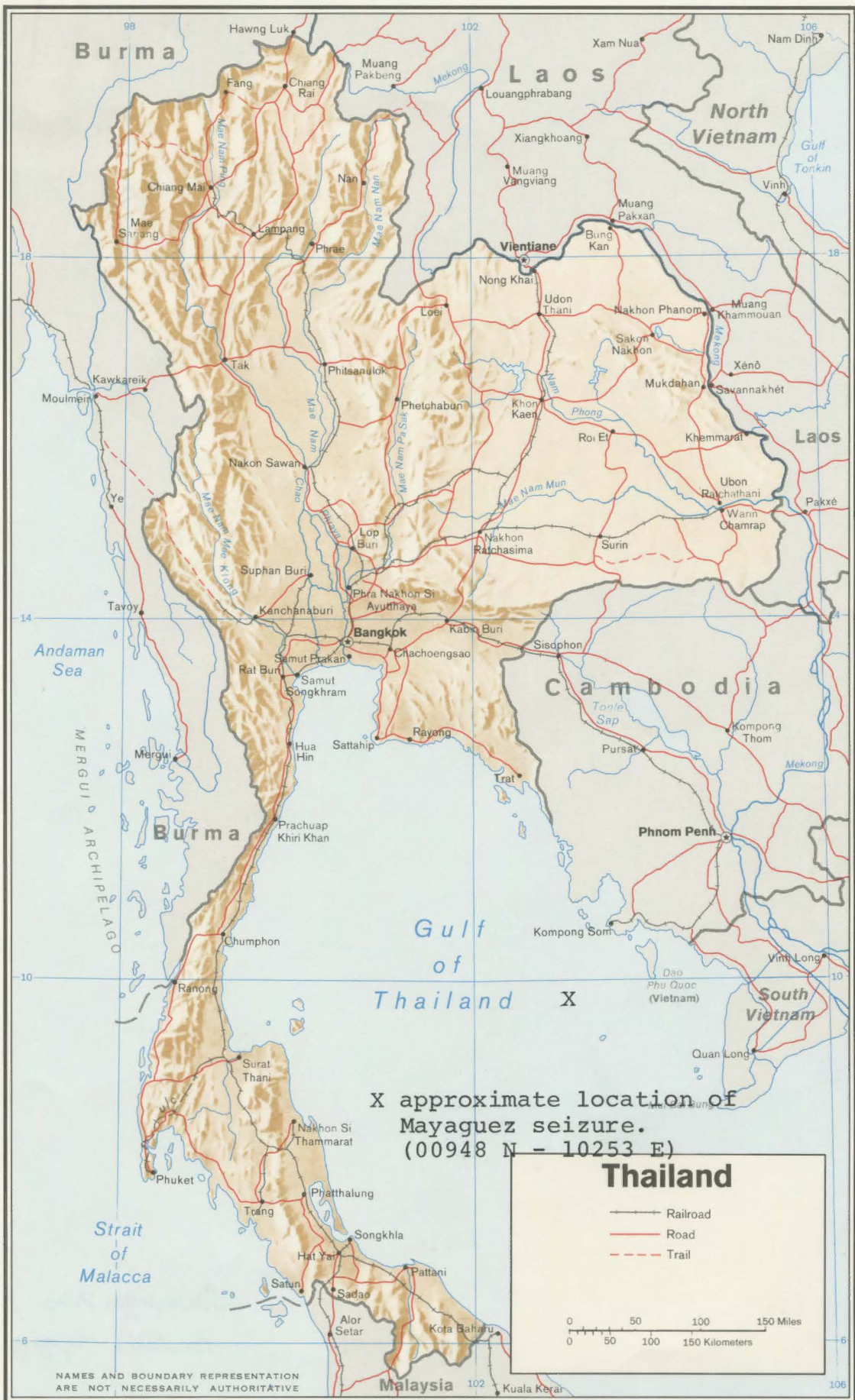
Circumstances of Seizure: According to ship and company reports, the seizure took place at 0718 ZULU, or 2:18 a. m. Washington time. The ship was allegedly fired upon and boarded by Cambodian armed forces at 9°48' north/102°53' east. (See map at Tab A.)

Ship's Route: Probable last port, Hong Kong; intended destination, Thailand. Ship is now being towed toward an unknown Cambodian port, but probably Kompong Som (Sihanoukville).

Cargo unknown, but reportedly some DOD cargo is on board.







Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

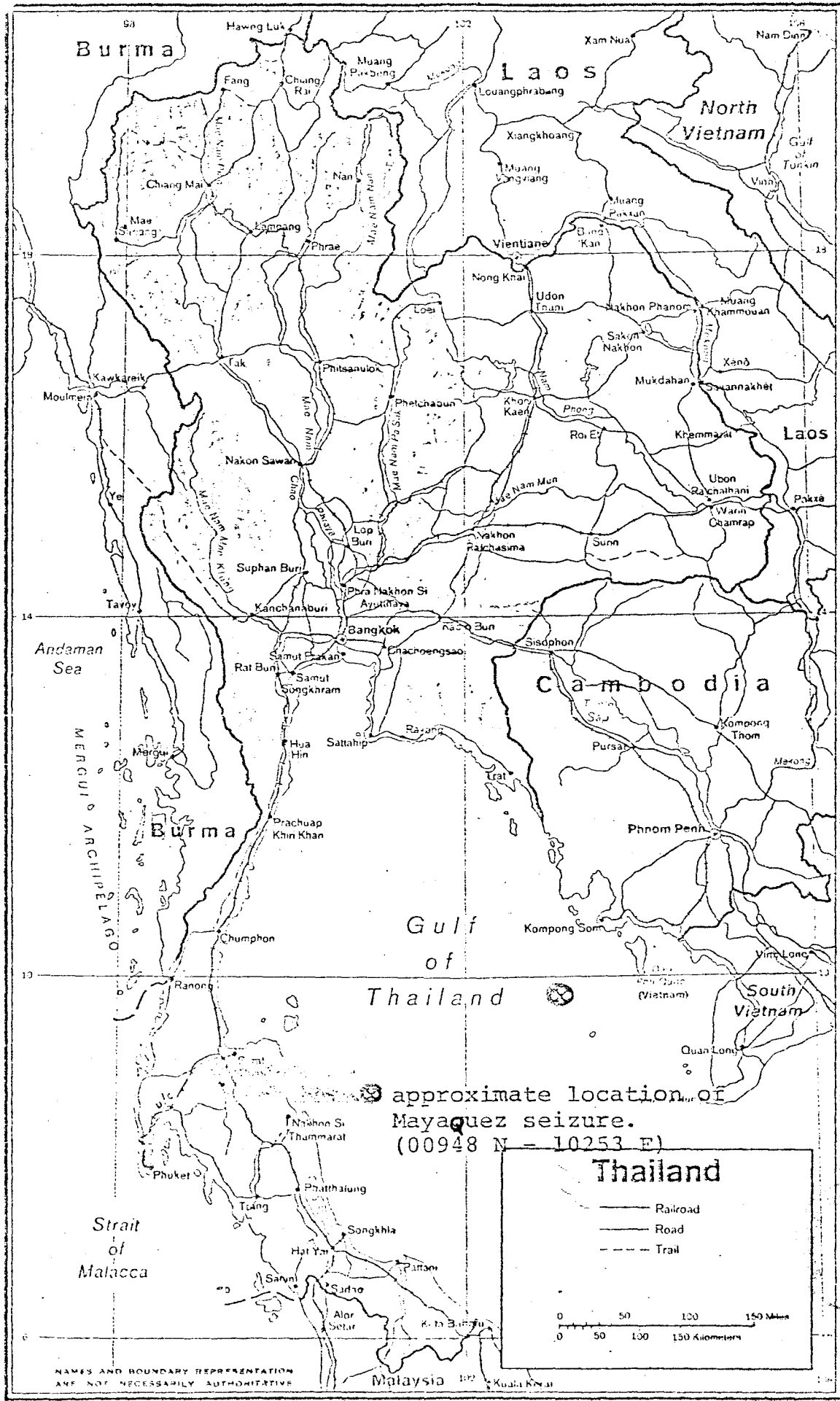
We have been informed that a Cambodian naval vessel has seized an American merchant ship on the high seas and forced it to the port of Kompong Som. The President has met with the NSC. He considers this seizure an act of piracy. He has instructed the State Department to demand the immediate release of the ship. Failure to do so would have the most serious consequences.

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NAMES AND BOUNDARY REPRESENTATION  
ARE NOT NECESSARILY AUTHORITY



CRITIC  
IE ..... #9999  
M .....

TO DIRNSA

VW .....  
JE ..... 9999

ZNY MMQAD  
ZKZK WW ZZZ DE  
ZYH

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO DIRNSA

ZEM  
UNCLAS E F T O CRITIC 0356 MAY 75  
SUBJ: CRITIC

DECLASSIFIED • E.O. 12958 SEC. 3.8  
WITH PORTIONS EXEMPTED  
E.O. 12958 SEC. 1.5.(c)

MR 02-53 #4; CIA LEX 2/22/06

BY dal NARA DATE 5/7/06

1. ....  
RECEIVED FOLLOWING MAYDAY INFO FROM US SHIP MAYAGUEZ,  
"HAVE BEEN FIRED UPON AND BOARDED BY CAMBODIAN ARMED  
FORCES AT 9 DEGREES 48 MIN N/102 DEGREES 53 MIN E. SHIP  
EBBEING TOWED TO UNKNOWN  
CAMBODIAN PORT."

2. .... SAID MSG WAS SENT BY CREW IN SHIPS RADIO  
ROOM WHICH WAS NOT OCCUPIED BY CAMBODIAN TROOPS. RADIO  
FREQUENCY IS 12421 MG. TIME OF INCIDENT WAS FEW MINUTES  
BEFORE 1530 LOCAL JAKARTA TIME.  
C FT 1320904 DTG 120903Z MAY 75



\*\*\*\*\*WHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, SMYSER, STEARMAN

RECALLED  
PSN:037435 PAGE 01 OF 01 TOR:132/09:10Z DTG:120903Z MAY 75

6

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

FYI

13 May 75

Lora:

Gen Scowcroft signed off on the attached this pm. I have called to Bud's attn because RCA's have already been used and it will require appropriate dating after Pres's sig.

Just wanted to fly it by you -- in case subject comes up in the next couple of days -- before putting it in the General's chron.

Wilma





## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRET

May 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: DAVID ELLIOTT *D. E.*

SUBJECT: Use of Riot Control Agents in  
Recovering the Mayaguez and Its Crew

The JCS considers that it received oral authorization from the President, at NSC meeting, to use riot control agents (RCA) in the event of a military operation to recover the S. S. Mayaguez and its crew and passengers. In light of recent Congressional concerns relating to the use of RCAs in Vietnam, it is advisable to obtain written authorization.

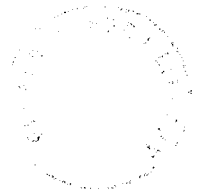
RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

SECRET/GDS

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines  
By *let*, NARA, Date *12/10/99*

I




## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER 

SUBJECT: Use of Riot Control Agents in Recovering  
the Mayaguez and Its Crew

DOD has indicated that any military effort to recover the S.S. Mayaguez and its crew might be facilitated by the use of riot control agents (RCA). Such use could reduce casualties and in some situations obviate the necessity of greater, including lethal, force.

Under Executive Order 11850 (Tab B), the first use in war of RCAs is precluded except in defensive military modes to save lives, inter alia, "in rescue missions, in remotely isolated areas, of downed airmen and passengers, and escaping prisoners". The legislative history connected with the Senate ratification of the Geneva Protocol makes clear that we also hold open possible use in situations analogous to those described in the Executive Order. The recovery of the Mayaguez and its crew is so analogous.

Those uses of RCAs allowed by the Executive Order require your authorization in advance. Such authorization was given for the emergency evacuation operation in Vietnam (Tab C).

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the order at Tab A authorizing the use of riot control agents to save lives in the event of a military effort to recover the S.S. Mayaguez and its crew and passengers.

SECRET/GDS

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guideli-  
By ut, NARA, Date 12/20/99

A



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Use of Riot Control Agents in Efforts to Recover  
the S.S. Mayaguez and Its Crew and Passengers

Pursuant to Executive Order 11850, U.S. forces are authorized to use riot control agents to save lives in the event an operation is approved to recover the S.S. Mayaguez and its crew and passengers from the waters off Cambodia.

cc: The Secretary of State

SECRET/GDS



W.D.

1/15/2016

B



THE WHITE HOUSE

EXECUTIVE ORDER

RENUNCIATION OF CERTAIN USES IN WAR OF CHEMICAL  
HERBICIDES AND RIOT CONTROL AGENTS

The United States renounces, as a matter of national policy, first use of herbicides in war except use, under regulations applicable to their domestic use, for control of vegetation within U.S. bases and installations or around their immediate defensive perimeters, and first use of riot control agents in war except in defensive military modes to save lives such as:

(a) Use of riot control agents in riot control situations in areas under direct and distinct U.S. military control, to include controlling rioting prisoners of war.

(b) Use of riot control agents in situations in which civilians are used to mask or screen attacks and civilian casualties can be reduced or avoided.

(c) Use of riot control agents in rescue missions, in remotely isolated areas, of downed aircrews and passengers, and escaping prisoners.

(d) Use of riot control agents in rear echelon areas outside the zone of immediate combat to protect convoys from civil disturbances, terrorists and paramilitary organizations.

I have determined that the provisions and procedures prescribed by this Order are necessary to ensure proper implementation and observance of such national policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America by the Constitution and laws of the United States and as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The Secretary of Defense shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the use by the Armed Forces of the United States of any riot control agents and chemical herbicides in war is prohibited unless such use has Presidential approval, in advance.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe the rules and regulations he deems necessary to ensure that the national policy herein announced shall be observed by the Armed Forces of the United States.

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
APRIL 8, 1975

###



C





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 17, 1975

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Use of Riot Control Agents in the Republic  
of Vietnam

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order 11850, your request of April 4, 1975 for authority for the use of riot control agents chlorobenzylidenemalononitrile (CS) and chloracetophenone (CN) by U.S. forces in the Republic of Vietnam in situations requiring crowd dispersal during any emergency evacuation operation is approved.

*Arnold R. Zink*

cc: The Secretary of State

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines  
By UK, NARA Date 12/20/99



6A  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Henry -

The Defense options  
papers.

Brent



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

13 May 75

Lora:

Attached are extra copies of papers  
used in mtgs/discussions tonight.

They may be needed during the next  
couple of days.

Wilma



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION  
Presidential Libraries Withdrawal Sheet

WITHDRAWAL ID 009362

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL . . . . National security restriction  
TYPE OF MATERIAL . . . . . Plan  
CREATOR'S NAME . . . . . Dept. of Defense  
TITLE . . . . . Possible Scenarios for Recovery of Ship  
and Crew (Mayaguez)  
CREATION DATE . . . . . 05/13/1975  
VOLUME . . . . . 4 pages  
COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 033200005  
COLLECTION TITLE . . . . . NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER.  
KISSINGER-SCOWCROFT WEST WING OFFICE  
FILES  
BOX NUMBER . . . . . 1  
FOLDER TITLE . . . . . Cambodia - Mayaguez Seizure (1)  
DATE WITHDRAWN . . . . . 12/08/1999  
WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST . . . . LET

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION  
Presidential Libraries Withdrawal Sheet

WITHDRAWAL ID 009363

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL . . . . National security restriction  
TYPE OF MATERIAL . . . . . Report  
CREATOR'S NAME . . . . . Department of Defense  
TITLE . . . . . Present Status/Status of Forces/Actions  
to Prevent Ship from Moving Towards  
Port...  
CREATION DATE . . . . . 05/1975  
VOLUME . . . . . 6 pages  
COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 033200005  
COLLECTION TITLE . . . . . NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER.  
KISSINGER-SCOWCROFT WEST WING OFFICE  
FILES  
BOX NUMBER . . . . . 1  
FOLDER TITLE . . . . . Cambodia - Mayaguez Seizure (1)  
DATE WITHDRAWN . . . . . 12/08/1999  
WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST . . . . LET



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 **and to prevent movement of the ship itself** the Cambodian mainland / 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.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines  
By 111 NARA, Date 12/29/99

May 13, 1975

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.



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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines

By *lut*, NARA, Date *1/22/09*



May 13, 1975

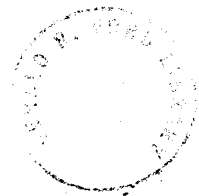
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 13, 1975

According to Navy Flag Plot there are 39 U.S crewmen on board the Mayaguez. The vessel is owned by Sealand and has some DOD cargo on board.

We do not have any knowledge of the vessel's current location.

Glenn Crispell



7B



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7, :)- 3 1 5 9 14858: 19)92-UP TO CRITIC 0356.

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM DAO/MANILA

QUOTE  
MR. DELAS REYES RADIO OPERATOR IN MANILA (DZC-13)  
REPORTS RECEIVING RELAYED TRANSMISSION FROM BRINKER  
HOSS (AND OIL RIG OWNED BY PHILSUN OIL COMPANY)  
INDICATING CONTAINER SHIP MAYAGUEZ (WFZK) BEING  
TOWED BY CAMBODIAN TROOPS TO KAMPONG SON.

LAST INDICATED LOCATION: 00948N/10253E.  
2. ADDITIONAL INFO WILL FOLLOW AS AVAILABLE.

#5016



\*\*\*\*\*WHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, SMYSER, STEARMAN

RECALLED  
PSN:037497 PAGE 01 OF 01 TOR:132/10:24Z DTG:121013Z MAY 75

7D

FLASH  
DE YEKAAM #5019 1321119  
Z 121100Z MAY 75 ZYH  
FM DIRNSA

TO ZINDO  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO DIRNSA  
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UNCLAS E F T O FOLLOW UP NO 3 TO CRITIC NO 1 120903Z MAY 75

1. IN GOING OVER INCIDENT, MR NEAL STATED THAT ACTUAL TIME OF BOARDING AS REPORTED BY SHIP'S RADIO WAS 0718Z. (NOTE EARLIER MR NEAL INDICATED INCIDENT OCCURRED JUST PRIOR TO 0830Z. IN NDW APPEARS THAT SHIP WAS IN TROUBLE FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR BEFORE MAYDAY CALL RECEIVED BY MR NEAL. SHIP REPORTED PLACE OF INCIDENT NEAR "PULUA KDH GAI (ISLAND OF KOW WAI). PROBABLE LAST PORT, HONG KONG, AND INTENDED DESTINATION THAILAND(POSSIBLY SATTAHIP).

2. MR NEAL CLOSED DOWN TRANSMITTER APPROX 1000Z AFTER REPEATED UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO RAISE SHIP SINCE APPROX 0900Z.  
C FT 1321051 DTG 1201050Z MAY 75



\*\*\*\*\*WHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

SCONCROFT, MCFARLANE, SMYSER, STEARMAN

RECALLED

PSN:037550 PAGE 01 OF 01 TOR:132/11:21Z DTG:121100Z MAY 75

8  
(then changed)

5/14

~~SECRET~~

Text of Statement to be Read Over Cambodian  
Frequencies and via Loud Speaker to Inhabitants  
of the Island

"American forces have retaken our ship, the Mayaguez, and landed on Koh Tang Island. We demand the release of the crew members unharmed. If the Cambodian authorities do not announce by 10:00 this morning their intention to release all crew members unconditionally and immediately, the Cambodian authorities will be fully responsible for the further consequences. We are monitoring international distress frequencies to receive response."



~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines  
By lit, NARS, Date 12/20/99

~~SECRET~~

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~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines  
By let, NARA, Date 12/22/99

CHRONOLOGY

At 7:07 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time a radio broadcast was carried on the Phnom Penh Domestic Radio Station in Cambodia which reportedly was a statement by Grunk Information Minister Hu Nim. The statement reportedly offered to release the Mayaguez.

This statement was directed to Cambodia and was in the Cambodian language. And; since it was in Cambodian language, could not have reasonably been considered to be directed ~~directly~~ to the United States.

This message was <sup>monitored</sup> ~~heard~~ by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service and translated into English. It was put <sup>on</sup> ~~in~~ the FBIS wire at 8:06 EDT and was delivered to the President's office and Secretary Kissinger at approximately 8:15.





PRESS STATEMENT

In further pursuit of our efforts to obtain the release of the SS Mayaguez and its crew, the President has directed the following military measures, starting this evening Washington time:

- U.S. Marines to board the S.S. Mayaguez.
- U.S. Marines to land on Koh Tang Island, in order to rescue any crew members as may be on the Island.
- Aircraft from the carrier "Coral Sea" to undertake associated military operations in the area in order to protect and support the operations to regain the vessel and members of the crew.



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Jan 28 10  
(Hanson file)  
3/64

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CORAL SEA

150142 EDT

HANCOCK

160600 EDT

HOLT ON STATION

140709 EDT

---

How many  
strikes.



# NMCC REPORTS

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



3 Confirmed

IN  
ADDITION

Attacks on a "couple

more on beach"  
STATUS UNKNOWN.

attacks on a  
"Couple more at sea".

---

Boats at sea dead in  
water but may be  
"decoy".  
(WHAT A WAFFLE)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

7:08 p. m.  
May 14, 1975

General Scowcroft:

Mr. Sisco called with the following message  
for you:

"We are about to inform other diplomats.  
I do not want to do this until you can  
confirm to me that we have made our  
landings. Can you confirm this?"

Yes

No

"Also, I believe both the Soviets and the  
Chinese should be included on the list of  
those informed. Can you confirm?"

Yes

No

"Please send an answer out of the meeting  
immediately."

Wilma



13

(this was dictated by Mr. Smyser,  
but the congressional people (Marsh, Freidersdoff)  
didn't use it--they directed the people of Congress  
to listen to the President's statement) 11:00 p.m.

5/14/75

Talking Points for Congressional Briefing

As the President informed the Congressional leadership this afternoon, U.S. forces conducted a number of operations this evening in the vicinity of Kompong Som in order to free the American merchant ship SS Mayaguez and its crew.

U.S. forces conducted three operations. A detachment of U.S. Marines boarded the Mayaguez. Another detachment of Marines landed on the Island of Koh Tang. Strike aircraft supported these operations by attacks against selected targets in the vicinity of Kompong Som. Our forces suffered casualties in operations on the Island, and three helicopters were lost. We do not yet have a final report on casualties.

The Marines seized the SS Mayaguez. After the operation had been in progress for some time, the Cambodians released the crew. The destroyer SS Wilson picked up the crew from the boat, and returned the crew to the SS Mayaguez.



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ca 5/15/75

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have just received information that the entire crew of the S. S. Mayaguez <sup>now</sup> has been released by ~~the~~ Cambodian authorities. The crew is now on the vessel. Our military operations have, therefore, ~~now~~ ceased.

I wish to express my appreciation to the units that conducted the operations which resulted in the recovery of the vessel and led to the release of the crew.



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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 14, 1975

General:

Following is the information received from Colonel Graves this morning:

They have sighted a total of 5 swift boats -- two 50', one 32', one 60' and one 70'.

Three are confirmed sunk -- one 50' and the 60' and 70' boats. (The 50' boat had been escorting a 32' boat to the Mainland.)

We still have the 32' boat which made it to the Mainland and the other 50' boat which is about a mile and a half southwest of the island.

Irene



*As given by the President*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 15, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

At my direction, United States forces tonight boarded the American merchant ship S.S. Mayaguez and landed at the Island of Koh Tang for the purpose of rescuing the crew and ship which had been illegally seized by Cambodian forces. They also conducted supporting strikes against nearby military installations.

I have now received information that the vessel has been recovered intact and that the entire crew has been rescued.

The forces that have successfully accomplished this mission are still under hostile fire ~~but~~ are preparing to disengage.

I wish to express my <sup>deep</sup> appreciation and that of the entire nation to the units and men who participated in these operations for their valor and sacrifice.

*Then*

# # #



## TALKING POINTS

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The forces that have successfully accomplished this mission are still under hostile fire but are preparing to disengage.



**TALKING POINTS** (For the President)

At my direction, American forces tonight boarded the SS Mayaguez and landed at the Island of Koh Tang. They also conducted supporting strikes against the mainland near Kompong Som.

I have now received information that the vessel has been recovered intact and that the entire crew has been rescued.

I wish to express my appreciation and that of the entire nation to the units and men who participated in these operations.



TALKING POINTS (For the President)

At my direction, American forces tonight boarded the SS<sup>1</sup> Mayaguez and landed at the Island of Koh Tang. They also conducted supporting strikes against the ~~mainland~~ <sup>near</sup> mainland of Kompong Som. <sup>PK</sup> I have now received information that the vessel has been recovered in tact and that the entire crew ~~is in American hands~~ <sup>has been recovered</sup> and ~~seen will be safely aboard.~~ <sup>is</sup> Our ~~military operations~~ <sup>should</sup> ~~therefore, being~~ <sup>and that of the entire nation</sup> ~~cancelled.~~

I wish to express my appreciation to the units and ~~the~~ men who participated in these ~~successful~~ operations.

