

The original documents are located in Box 18, folder “General Accounting Office - Mayaguez” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

4697
GAO
for Jones

B-133001

July 22, 1975

The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President
The White House

Dear Mr. Kissinger:

This is in further reference to my letter to you of July 8, 1975, advising that GAO had been requested by the Subcommittee on International Political and Military Affairs, House International Relations Committee to review the seizure of the U.S. vessel Mayaguez and crisis prevention and crisis management operations of our Government. Since my earlier letter, our Office has been requested informally by the staff of the National Security Council (NSC) to identify the statutory basis for our review and for the requests for information and documents that have been made of NSC.

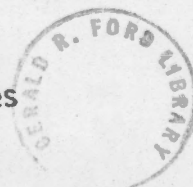
Our review is being performed in accordance with the statutory mandate of 31 U.S.C. Sec. 1154(a), and in conformity with the requirements imposed upon GAO by 31 U.S.C. Sec. 53. GAO's right to documents and information derives from the provision of 31 U.S.C. Sec. 54 that "[a]ll departments and establishments shall furnish to the Comptroller General such information regarding the powers, duties, activities, organization of their respective offices as he may from time to time require of them; and the Comptroller General or any of his assistants or employees, when duly authorized by him, shall, for the purpose of securing such information, have access to and the right to examine any books, documents, papers or records of any such departments or establishment"

We have not been successful in obtaining information and documents from NSC that we consider necessary if we are to complete the review requested by the Subcommittee. If it is the position of NSC that it will not supply us with the documents and information we seek, may we please be informed in writing of the reasons, including legal justification, so that we can attempt to resolve any differences that may exist, and failing that, report accurately NSC's position to the Subcommittee.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas B. Anshutz

Comptroller General
of the United States



*For filing
PJ*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 18, 1975
10:25 AM

Mr. Buchen:

Mr. Marsh said he has had another call from Defense -- the GAO matter is becoming an increasing problem.

Mr. Niederlehner (from Defense) will be calling you. Marty Hoffman is out of town.

Len

Jane

"Mechanisms"

*Called Lotimer &
Scrowcroft.
PJ*



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: JACK MARSH *Jack Marsh*

Perhaps you have seen the attached photostat which Brent has brought to my attention.

It poses some real problems and apparently there is a very short time fuse. You may wish to give it some thought over the week-end and maybe you, Brent and I can discuss it Monday.

Many thanks.





COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-133001

July 8, 1975

The Honorable
The Secretary of Defense

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On June 23, 1975, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Political and Military Affairs, House International Relations Committee, requested GAO to undertake a review of two related issues:

1. The seizure of the U.S. vessel Mayaguez and subsequent diplomatic and military efforts to secure its release.
2. Possible improvements in the crisis prevention and crisis management operations of our government, specifically, the planning and execution of military operations; the speed and adequacy of military and diplomatic communications; and the adequacy of arrangements for briefing and consulting the Congress.

The Subcommittee has asked that GAO's review be as broad and thorough as possible and recognized that the nature of the subject would require access to information and responsible officials at the highest level. We would appreciate your cooperation in this effort.

This review will be conducted under the general supervision of Mr. C.D. Hylander, Deputy Director, International Division, Room 4804, telephone number 386-4515. Mr. R.E. Sullins, Assistant Director, ID, Room 4116, telephone number 366-5445, will head a special working group to carry out this assignment. The assignment code is 46946.

Sincerely yours,

James A. Blach

Comptroller General
of the United States



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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

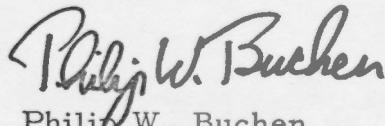
July 21, 1975

Dear Mr. Ochinko:

In accordance with your letter of July 15, 1975, requesting copies of all White House press briefings and press releases on the Mayaguez seizure, I have enclosed the requested items.

I trust this satisfies your inquiry.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Walter S. Ochinko
International Division
United States General Accounting Office
Washington, D. C. 20548

Enclosure





UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

JUL 15 1975

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President
The White House

Dear Mr. Buchen:

Pursuant to a request of the Subcommittee on International Political and Military Affairs of the House International Relations Committee, we would like to obtain copies of all White House press briefings and press releases on the Mayaguez seizure up to and including the controversy over the number of U.S. casualties. We would appreciate receiving this information as soon as possible.

If any additional information is needed please contact Mr. Walter Ochinko, Room 4116, GAO Building, or phone 386-5445. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Walter S. Ochinko

Walter S. Ochinko
International Relations
Specialist



May 12 STATEMENT BY WH PRESS SECT'Y that Cambodian naval vessel has seized American merchant ship.

May 14 STATEMENT BY WH PRESS SECT'Y re: President's military directives

May 14 TEXT OF MESSAGE TO THE CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES FROM THE UNITED STATES GOV'T.

May 15 STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE SS MAYAGUEZ.

May 15 TEXT OF A LETTER TO THE SPEAKER AND PRESIDENT PRO TEM.

May 16 REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT AT THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN HERITAGE GROUPS COUNCIL

May 18 REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT AT THE UPENN COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

May 18 EXCHANGE OF REMARKS IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND NORRIS COTTON, FORMER SENATOR FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE AT THE NORTHEAST BUSINESS GROUP AND SMALL BUSINESS SERVICE BUREAU.

May 23 INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT BY HENRI BRANDON, ADALBERT DE SEGONZAC, JAN REIFENBERG, MARIO DE MEDICI, AND ROBIN MACNEIL.

May 24 PRESS CONFERENCE OF HENRY A. KISSINGER, RM 450 OEOB.

June 25 PRESS CONFERENCE No. 16 OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

July 12 PRESS CONFERENCE No. 17 OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

May 12 NEWS CONFERENCE (1:50 P.M.)

May 12 NEWS CONFERENCE (4:30 P.M.)

May 13 NEWS CONFERENCE (6:54 A.M.)



May 13	NEWS CONFERENCE (9:53 A. M.)
May 13	NEWS CONFERENCE (12:15 P. M.)
May 13	NEWS CONFERENCE (7:35 P. M.)
May 14	NEWS CONFERENCE (11:50 A. M.)
May 14	NEWS CONFERENCE (8:30 P. M.)
May 14	NEWS CONFERENCE (9:15 P. M.)
May 15	NEWS CONFERENCE (12:45 A. M.)
May 15	NEWS CONFERENCE (11:58 A. M.)
May 19	NEWS CONFERENCE (11:11 A. M.)
May 21	NEWS CONFERENCE (12:20 P. M.)
May 22	NEWS CONFERENCE (12:09 P. M.)

June 11

.. .. (11:34 AM)

