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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail
for Week of May 12-16, 1975

Incoming Presidential letters and telegrams for the week totalled approximately 50,000 pieces. Almost 25% of this -- 12,000 pieces -- dealt exclusively with the MAYAGUEZ incident.

From the first announcement of the seizure of the SS MAYAGUEZ, mail has been heavy, and I estimate you will receive upwards of 100,000 wires and letters within a matter of days. Throughout, you have been urged to take swift, decisive action to recover the ship and crew, and applauded both during the military operation and following the successful rescue.

Mail throughout this period is extremely supportive and laudatory and breaks down as follows:

- (1) Mail received immediately following seizure, urging swift U.S. action:

PRO: 2,746
CON: 109
COMMENT: 30

- (2) Mail received following initiation of military action but prior to rescue of ship and crew:

PRO: 2,734
CON: 630
COMMENT: 31

- (3) Mail received following successful rescue operation:

PRO: 5,367
CON: 187

Mail in this week's sample is solely on the MAYAGUEZ incident and the first telegram in the VIP-Rescue Section is from Colin Stokes, Chairman of the Board of R.J. Reynolds Industries, and thanks you and the Marines for their superb rescue operation.

Refugee mail also remains heavy (14%) and about equally divided on the matter of Vietnamese resettlement in the U.S.

PRO:	3,450
CON:	3,204
COMMENT:	337

Included among the PRO were 1,206 offers of personal assistance and money to refugees.

cc: Paul Theis