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Marines on Way to Thailand; Khmers Hold Ship Off Coast

Compiled From AP and UPI

WASHINGTON — With U.S. Marines bound for Thailand as part of an apparent show of military force, President Ford ordered the National Security Council to convene for the second time in 12 hours Tuesday night.

In announcing the meeting, White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen said the U.S. merchant ship captured by armed Cambodians remained dead in the water near Koh Tang Island about 30 miles off the Cambodian coast.

Denying reports the vessel was moving toward an undisclosed destination, Nessen said: "It's right where it has been."

The White House spokesman said it was his understanding that the day's second NSC session was scheduled for 10:30 p.m. EDT so Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger could attend, following a day of appearances in Missouri. Ford also met with the

Related stories, Pages 2, 6.

curity council at 10:15 a.m. "It is not an emergency meeting," Nessen said the evening session.

The presidential spokesman said he would have nothing to say following the session and, in fact, did not anticipate any White House announcement of any kind during the night. Shortly before 8 p.m., Nessen said the press office staff was leaving for the night.

In an apparent effort to persuade Cambodia to release the captured ship, Ford dispatched 150 Marines to Thailand Tuesday. An additional 1,000 Marines were expected to fly from Okinawa to the U.S. Air Base (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

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The Lure of a Spring Evening

As the days get longer and the fishing gets better, more and more fishermen line up along a pier in Minneapolis in their attempt to catch the "big one" under a majestic sunset. The skyline of the city can be seen far in the distance. (UPI)

100% Successful at Doing Nothing

The Office of Total Immobilization

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jubal Hale admits he's a bureaucrat with little to do. So he spends his working hours reading and listening to Beethoven records at his office.

Hale says it's not that he doesn't try to earn his \$19,693-a-year salary as executive secretary of the Federal Metal and Non-Metallic Safety Board of Review. It's just that the board has never had anything to review in its four years. Hale said in an interview.

"We have been expecting to be abolished for over two years," Hale said. "Bills have been introduced in Congress to abolish us. But nothing happened."

And nothing is what occupies most of his days on the job, once the routine paperwork of maintaining the office is taken care of, Hale concedes.

Apparently, neither Congress nor the Ford administration has taken the hint. In fact, the administration is asking for \$40,000 in annual upkeep for the office in the President's budget for fiscal year 1976.

Hale was contacted by a reporter after Rep. Ken Hechler, D-W. Va., charged in a House Appropriations subcommittee meeting Monday that the board was "a totally useless, toothless and do-less government agency which has never earned its pay."

Hechler called for the board to be abolished. Hale said he doubted any objections would come from his office if Congress did just that.

"We have been extremely candid with Congress," Hale said. "Our annual reports are clear and concise. We have had no cases."

The five-member board was set up to hear appeals from non-coal mine operators ordered to shut down by the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration as unsafe. A MESA spokesman expressed surprise that the board was still in operation. "I thought it had been abolished some time ago," he said.

There were 1,998 closure orders last year but not one was appealed to Hale's board. Hechler said that mine operators have another avenue of appeal through the Interior secretary.

He described a trip to the board's offices last week.

"The door was open, the telephone was off the hook, and nobody was around," said the congressman. "The coffee-making equipment was elaborate. A large stereo set was in the office of the executive secretary with Beethoven records stacked high."

Hale said he was visiting the Interior Department and his secretary was home sick when (Continued on Back Page, Col. 4)

23 GIs Die In Thailand Helo Crash

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A U.S. Air Force CH53 helicopter crashed Tuesday in Thailand and all 23 airmen aboard were believed killed, the Pentagon announced.

A spokesman said the chopper was flying from one location to another within Thailand and was not involved with the U.S. military reaction to the seizure of the container ship Mayaguez.

The CH53 crashed at 10:15 a.m. EDT about 25 miles west of Nakhon Phanom Air Base in northeastern Thailand near the Laotian border. A Pentagon spokesman said a ground party penetrated the jungle to within 70 yards of the crash site and "determined there could be no survivors."

The chopper carried a crew of four and 19 passengers, all of them airmen.

The spokesman said an investigation was underway to determine the cause of the crash.

Khmers Holding Ship 30 Miles Off Coast

(Continued From Page 1)
in Utapao, Thailand, according to military sources.

However, in Bangkok, Prime Minister Kukrit Pramok said Thailand will not permit the United States to use Thai air bases for military action against Cambodia, including any armed attempt to secure the return of the American vessel and its crew of 29.

"We will not allow the American troops to use our soil for any war," Kukrit told a news conference in response to a question about the ship. "We have enough trouble with Asian neighbors now."

However, a Thai foreign ministry spokesman said later: "We will have to wait for complete details before we can make any comments."

Chinese First Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping said Tuesday in Paris that China could do nothing if U.S. forces intervened in Cambodia to free the captured freighter Mayaguez.

"There is nothing China could do," he told newsmen at the Elysee presidential palace when asked about possible Chinese reaction to a U.S. military intervention in the recently Communist-ruled country.

Grim-faced and uncommunicative, Teng answered newsmen's questions curtly before shuffling into a waiting limousine for the short ride back to his Hotel Matignon residence. He would not elaborate on his statement.

Teng, who ranks as number three in Peking's governing hierarchy behind Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai, said he had no information to confirm reports that China would mediate the quarrel threatening to explode between Washington and the Khmer Rouge forces in Cambodia.

"You are newsmen and you are better informed than I am," he said when pressed for an answer after a two-hour meeting with President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

Pentagon officials described the situation as "hyper-delicate" and said no final decision had been reached on what action to take. These officials indicated the next 24 to 48 hours could be critical.

Meanwhile in Kansas City, reporters traveling with Kissinger were told the United States would refuse to give up anything in exchange for return of the unarmed container ship Mayaguez, seized by Cam-

bodian gunboats in the Gulf of Thailand on Monday.

Earlier Tuesday at the White House, Nessen adopted a similarly tough tone, saying the President wanted the ship freed immediately. "Immediate is immediate," Nessen said at a news briefing. "The President wants the ship released now."

Ford demanded the immediate release of the unarmed container ship Mayaguez but said he would consult with Congress before taking any military action against the Cambodians.

Nevertheless, Pentagon sources said the United States had begun a show of military force in the area.

At least six Phantom jets, two F111 fighter planes and a number of A7 fighter-bombers flew from Thailand over the ship, reported lying dead in the water near Koh Tang Island about 30 miles off the Cambodian coast.

The Phantoms were fired on with small arms as they made low passes over the freighter, sources said.

The Pentagon said Tuesday an American patrol plane was hit by a single shot while keeping watch on the Mayaguez, but

damaged so slightly the pilot did not know it until after he landed.

A spokesman said the pilot reported on his return to a base in Thailand that he saw gunfire from a small island near where two Cambodian gunboats are holding the freighter captive, but not from the Communist vessels themselves.

The round of ammunition went through the plane's vertical stabilizer, the spokesman said, and damage was insignificant.

Nessen had confirmed reports a U.S. plane had been hit, saying: "The story is essentially correct. I cannot go any farther than that."

In addition, the aircraft carrier Coral Sea, bound for Australia, was turned around and headed toward the Gulf of Thailand, where the Mayaguez was fired upon and seized Monday.

At least two other Navy destroyers also were reported headed toward Cambodia.

Despite the show of force, and Ford's demand for immediate return of the Mayaguez, Nessen said the President has set no deadline for the vessel's return.

In Kansas City, Secretary of

State Henry A. Kissinger said, "The United States will not accept harassment of its ships on international sea lanes."

He said the President has "certain inherent powers" to take military action to recover the ship, without Congress' consent. But Kissinger said if diplomatic efforts fail, Ford would consult with legislators.

Replying to a barrage of questions, Kissinger challenged a report that the Mayaguez, which was seized in the Gulf of Thailand, was carrying military weapons. "To the best of my knowledge this is not correct," he said.

Kissinger described the U.S. Government as "fully united" behind the President, but he declined to divulge the options under consideration.

He said a White House statement charging Cambodia with "an act of piracy" and warning that failure to release the ship "would have the most serious consequences" was "carefully drawn."

"You can assume the situation is not being taken lightly," he said.

Speaking of the President, Kissinger said: "He has certain inherent powers to protect

American lives and property."

Meanwhile, the Rev. Paul D. Lindstrom, head of the "Remember the Pueblo Committee," said State Department sources told him four crew members of the Mayaguez were seriously injured by gunfire when the ship was seized.

Lindstrom said he got his information from "State Department sources, who informed us of many events associated with the Pueblo affair in 1968."

The Pueblo, a "spy ship," was seized by North Korea. The crew eventually was returned.

Lindstrom said the sources also told him "the Cambodians have informed the United States by way of Hanoi that the crew will be held as prisoners until such time as an apology is made for 'criminal actions against the Cambodian people' and American-made ships and planes which formerly belonged to the Cambodian navy and air force and used by refugees to flee to Thailand—are returned to Cambodia."

Lindstrom said the person who communicated the message to the U.S. was Ieng Sary, secretary general of the Cambodian Communist party.

Callaway: Nations Will Test Us Now

ATLANTA (UPI) — Because of foreign policy setbacks of the past three months, the United States must expect to be tested by other nations, Secretary of the Army Howard "Bo" Callaway said Tuesday.

The seizure of a U.S. merchant ship by Cambodia might be such a test, Callaway said.

"In the last three months

events have occurred which will be looked upon as extremely important," Callaway said. "We've lost Cambodia. We've lost South Vietnam. We've lost Portugal. We've lost the strong ally of Turkey. We've lost the step-by-step approach to peace in the Mideast."

"With all of this happening within the period of three

months," he said. "I think it would be very likely that someone will try to test us—to test what our will is."

The Army secretary, a native Georgian speaking to an Atlanta Kiwanis Club meeting, said the Army must be trained and equipped to be ready to meet such a test.

"The mere fact that we have

an Army that is ready and capable is of itself a deterrent," Callaway said.

Three years ago the Joint Chiefs of Staff judged that only four divisions of the Army were combat ready. Within this year, he said, the Army will have 16 active combat divisions, plus a reserve of eight more combat divisions.

Saigon: Refugee Returnees Welcome

South Vietnam's revolutionary government sent notes to its Asian neighbors Tuesday asking them to inform Vietnamese refugees that they are welcome to come home.

The Foreign Ministry said the diplomatic notes were sent to the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

They stated that a number of Vietnamese boats and ships in foreign waters had requested permission to return to Vietnam and added:

"Because we don't have representatives in your country, we request that you inform these Vietnamese ships we welcome their return home. Please tell them they can enter the ports of Yung Tau, Da Nang, Qui Nhon or any other ports of South Vietnam."

Thousands of South Vietnamese fled aboard small boats, barges and ships when the former Saigon government surrendered April 30, with more than 7,000 aboard vessels in Singapore's harbor alone.

(A Hanoi radio broadcast monitored in Hong Kong said Saigon's new government has sent its first official communication to Washington. It said the Foreign Ministry sent a note to the United States claiming ownership of the South Vietnamese embassy in Washington and all other property of the former Saigon government in the United States.)

(The broadcast did not say how the note was submitted, but presumably it was through Algerian channels. Algeria had been asked earlier by the South Vietnamese government to act on its behalf in matters related to the United States.)

Hundreds of war refugees who fled to Saigon during the two-month offensive by Communist troops that toppled the old Saigon government have begun returning to their homes.

Meanwhile on Guam, the 100,000 South Vietnamese refugee arrivals said Tuesday, American officials said the growing numbers of refugees and a drought were causing water supply problems on the Pacific island.

Officials presented 12-year-old Phan Truc Chi with a ceremonial lei as she disembarked from the U.S. ship Sergeant Andrew Miller to become the 100,000th refugee admitted to Guam.

After a brief stop for pictures, Chi was escorted with 26 other members of her family, including her parents, two brothers, one sister and several cousins, aunts and uncles, to the receiving area for refugees where they could shower, change clothes and get a hot meal.

Rear Adm. George S. Morrison said Tuesday sanitation continued to be a problem but not one that caused alarm.

Morrison said the Navy was capable of processing portable water at the rate of 13 million gallons a day, "and that is just about what is being used at the moment."

There was no shortage of water but the facilities with which to pump it were insufficient to keep up with the added demand, particularly in a drought situation, Morrison said.

A spokesman for the governor said members of the civilian community would be asked to refrain from washing their autos and watering their

lawn to help keep the water level up.

There have been no further symptoms of dengue fever since one youngster was admitted to the Navy hospital last week. There are now six confirmed malaria cases, which have not alarmed public health authorities. The number is far below what authorities had expected to find among 100,000 people, Morrison said.

One 13-year-old boy died at the Naval hospital Monday night after suffering a heart attack caused by pneumonia. He said the boy had been under care since May 6.

This brings to eight the total number of deaths reported in Guam.

Four ships arrived late Monday night with a total of 15,000 Vietnamese and a fifth was due with 3,200 more.

A Vietnamese navy vessel expected Tuesday is now scheduled to arrive Wednesday and a Vietnamese merchant ship is scheduled to reach here Thursday afternoon. There are 600 refugees aboard each of the Vietnamese ships.

Morrison said he had not been officially informed but did

expect that some of the refugees in Singapore now would "most likely find their way to Guam and we are making preparations to accept them."

There were still 2,800 in Subic Bay, the U.S. naval base in the Philippines, and they would eventually be sent to Guam, he said.

Less than half the 100,000 refugees admitted to Guam have been processed and moved to camps in the United States.

Orote tent city at present has 40,000 refugees. The remainder are scattered in three other locations. Asked if he thought 52,000 was about the saturation point, Morrison said he felt that number could be handled without endangering or inconveniencing the local population.

"Beyond that figure we will start to look at the situation a little differently," he said.

More than 115,000 refugees are already in the United States or "in the pipeline" from processing points in the Pacific, according to the interagency task force coordinating resettlement efforts.

Bureau of Beethoven

(Continued From Page 1)
Hechler visited, so no one was manning the office. He did not dispute Hechler's description.

Hale, 46, is an attorney who says he spends his days "doing whatever administrative jobs are necessary" and reading "to enlarge my knowledge in directions that would best serve the board."

He added, "there's nothing whatever to inhibit me from listening to Beethoven records. I think it's a good idea."

Hale said his board can only be abolished by congressional action and that he thinks Hechler and other congressmen "should stop making distribs against us" and, in effect, put up or shut up.

Temperatures

By United Press International

	H	L	H	L
Bangkok	92	74	Hono	79
Chicago	66	48	Seoul	61
Guam	85	78	Taipei	88
Honolulu	75	64	Tokyo	75
Manila	95	75		
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Albany	72	54	Melbourne	66
Albuquerque	83	45	Memphis	78
Annapolis	82	57	Miami	84
Anchorage	54	43	Minneapolis	63
Atlanta	81	59	Moscow	59
Birmingham	87	44	N. Orleans	85
Boston	84	59	N.Y.C.	75
Buffalo	83	56	N. Plains	67
Butte	83	57	Omaha, City	74
Charlotte	80	55	Owensboro	73
Chicago	61	52	Paris	61
Cincinnati	50	44	Philo.	80
Cleveland	73	55	Phoen.	103
Columbus	70	48	Pittsburgh	63
Denver	65	45	Port. O.	72
Des Moines	71	50	Raleigh	81
Detroit	54	53	Rapid City	59
Duluth	64	28	Reno	75
El Paso	72	53	Richmond	67
Fargo	65	33	Singapore	90
Hong Kong	88	77	St. Louis	68
Honolulu	83	68	St. Paul	67
Houston	83	64	Sea. Lake	65
Indianapolis	82	51	St. Antonio	59
Juneau	53	44	Son Diego	65
Kansas City	72	51	Son Frh.	79
K. Lumpur	91	73	Seattle	64
Las Vegas	90	66	Shreveport	86
Little Rock	80	59	Sydney	77
London	61	50	Tucson	74
L.A.	80	56	Wash.	77
Louisville	74	60		

Mayaguez Crew's Kin—How They Feel

By The Associated Press

"It's unbelievable they could pull a stunt like that," the son of a crewman aboard the U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez said after learning that the Cambodians had seized the vessel in the Gulf of Thailand.

Nichols Beck, 27, son of radio officer Wilbert N. Beck of Boscawen, N.J., said the crewman's wife, Marion, was "too upset" Monday to talk about the seizure of the ship.

"I had a few other reactions, too, but they're not fit to print at this time," the younger Beck said.

"I think they should go in there and try to get them released," said Mrs. James C. Mullis, 50, of Wilmer, Ala., wife of a Mayaguez boatswain.

She said she learned of the seizure in a news broadcast.

"I knew that was the name of his ship," she said. "I knew he was aboard."

Crewman Earl C. Gilbert's family learned that the ship had been taken when they received a telegram at their Pascagoula, Miss., home from Sealand Co., owner of the Mayaguez.

"My mother is pretty upset," said William Earl Gilbert, 24, one of Gilbert's three sons. "I told Mother they will have them released pretty quick, but she's still upset," he said.

He said his mother was taken to a local hospital Monday night to be given a sedative.

Third mate Burton Coombes, 55, wrote a letter to his wife, Dolores, in Hong Kong last week, and she received it in Richmond, Calif., Monday afternoon.

"He seemed a little concerned about the war situation over in that area," Mrs. Coombes said.

Of the seizure, she said: "There's nothing I can do. I'm sure they'll do everything they can to protect them. As long as I know they're not being harmed, I'm not too worried. I think it'll work out all right."



Mrs. Dolores Coombes of San Pablo, Calif., holds a picture of her husband Burton, 55, third mate aboard the Mayaguez. (UPI)

In Kenosha, Wis., the brother of crewman Salvatore Emile Puntillo, 37, said he and his two sisters planned to write to their congressmen—"for help in obtaining the release of Puntillo and the others."

"I hate to get strong-sounding, but I think our government has to stand up," said Robert Puntillo. "I know the government has to look at it deeper than we do, but that (the seizure) is watchable."

Agnes Sulaiman, 53, of Philadelphia, wife of Mayaguez older

Awat B. Sulaiman, was fearful for her husband's safety.

"If anything happens to him, I don't want to live," she said. "He's the best husband in the world."

Sulaiman, 56, joined the Merchant Marine in 1961 and has served on the Mayaguez since last September, she said.

Reporters waiting outside the Mountain Valley, Calif., home of Mayaguez Capt. Charles T. Miller said the residence appeared unoccupied and no one answered the door.

VFW: Answer Khmers With Military Force

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI)—The Veterans of Foreign Wars said Tuesday the United States should use military force to answer the Cambodian seizure of the American merchant ship Mayaguez.

VFW National Commander-in-Chief John Stang of LaCrosse, Kan., said the United States should have reacted immediately with force rather than trying diplomatic solutions.

"The nearest U.S. naval vessel to the scene of the piracy should have been immediately sent to board the vessel, free the crew and punish the pirates," Stang said. "The administration should take the wraps off the military and act now before paralysis by analysis stays our hand."

Stang said the incident may convince Americans that Cambodian and Vietnamese communists are "inhuman aggressors."

Vacationing Capt.: Spy Ship? No Way!

MOUNT PROSPECT, Ill. (UPI)—Capt. John N. Hill, on leave from the American merchant ship Mayaguez which was seized Monday by Cambodian naval forces, said Monday the vessel could in no way be considered a "spy ship."

"The ship is unarmed," Hill said. "I mean, there isn't even a pistol on board...we have a radio and radar, but that's 20 years old."

He said he knew of no military cargo on board when he took leave the day the ship left Hong Kong on the journey that led to its capture. He said that the ship did have a military contract but to his knowledge had never carried munitions or war equipment and handled mostly commercial shipping.

He compared the ship's capture to "a mugger with a revolver coming up to a little old lady."

"We should go in there with three Marine divisions and 100 B2s to get them out," Hill said. "We should set a deadline of a day or two to have them

bring the ship to a point on the high seas for a rendezvous. If they don't, we should go in there and get them."

He said the ship's crew used to have a "running joke" about being captured.

"What if we got captured? How would we like being in the Hanoi Hilton? What would the food be like and so on," he said. "Now it's ironic."

Moscow Reports Ship's Arrest

MOSCOW (UPI)—The Tass news agency said Tuesday the American merchant vessel Mayaguez may have been engaged in spying activities before its "arrest" by Cambodians.

Tass reported the capture of the ship in a three-paragraph dispatch from Washington which quoted mostly Western sources.

"According to some reports, this ship was engaged in spying activities," Tass said.