

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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May 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: The Rescue of the SS Mayaguez and Its Crew

In the aftermath of the operation to rescue the SS Mayaguez and its crew, I consider it essential that we evaluate, as a means of insuring the most effective possible performance in future crises, the manner in which this operation was planned and conducted.

In order to facilitate this evaluation, I would like to receive, on a priority basis, the following:

- (a) A detailed and comprehensive chronological exposition of events and activities from the time of the seizure of the SS Mayaguez through the completion of the evacuation of Marines from Koh Tang Island, focused on the activities of the National Security Council and its staff.
- (b) A copy of each directive or instruction, including my orders in National Security Council meetings, issued to any department or agency, from the time of the basic planning decisions made at the National Security Council meeting at 10:30 p.m. on May 13 through the evacuation from Koh Tang Island.
- (c) Any observations or suggestions which you consider would contribute to improvement in the ability of the National Security Council machinery to deal effectively with crisis situations.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/93, State Dept. Guidelines

By lit, NARA, Date 12/20/99



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I have requested similar submissions from the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of Central Intelligence. When reports from those departments/agencies are received, you should prepare a consolidated evaluation report for my review.

*Gerald R. Ford*

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