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NEWS CONFERENCE

#213

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 6:54 A.M. EDT

MAY 13, 1975

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: The merchant ship Mayaguez at last report was anchored close to the island of Koh Tang, 30 miles off the coast of Cambodia. During the night Washington time, it was escorted by two Cambodian naval vessels from the point where it was originally boarded, toward its present location. The ship is being kept under observation by U. S. military aircraft. The President was kept informed of developments during the night.

Now let me give you the spelling of that little rock island that we talked about yesterday. The name of that island is Poulou Wai, P-o-u-l-o W-a-i.

Q Where is it located?

MR. NESSEN: That is the one we talked about yesterday, 60 miles or whatever.

Q Ron, is this the first statement that you have made beyond --

MR. NESSEN: This is the statement.

Now I am going to anticipate a couple of questions and then you can go file.

There is no NSC meeting scheduled at the moment.

It was learned that the ship was not in Kompong Som late last night.

Q Not in Kompong Som?

MR. NESSEN: Not in Kompong Som. We didn't say yesterday that it was, but I think the impression got around that it was moving toward Kompong Som. We learned late last night that it was not in Kompong Som.

Q How do you spell that?

MR. NESSEN: Kompong Som, K-o-m-p-o-n-g S-o-m, the big port on the gulf.

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