

**The original documents are located in Box C29, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 10/17/1975” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Roland Elliott -


Please have the letters  
to the Mayaguez crew prepared and  
returned to this office for the  
President's signature.

Jim Connor  
10/17/75

MEMORANDUM.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 7, 1975

FOR: STAFF SECRETARY  
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT   
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS TO  
MEMBERS OF THE MAYAGUEZ  
CREW

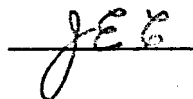
With reference to your memorandum to me of September 2, the National Security Council has recommended that the President not send an individual letter to each of the MAYAGUEZ crew members. (See attached memorandum.) Its recommendation is based on the fact that five members of the crew have filed suit against the United States Government, charging physical and mental harm as the result of actions by U.S. military forces.

I concur with the NSC recommendation.

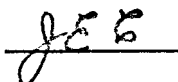
Should the President want to go ahead with the letters despite the suits, or excluding those who have filed the claims, a suggested letter is at Tab A.

RECOMMENDATION

That the President not send letters to the MAYAGUEZ crew.

 Approve

\_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove

 Letter to entire crew

\_\_\_\_\_ Only to crew members  
not filing claims

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 16, 1975

MR PRESIDENT

You previously indicated that you would like to write to each member of the Mayaguez crew (Tab A).

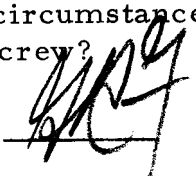
Phil Buchen and the NSC believe that such letters may be inadvisable at this time because five members of the crew have filed administrative claims against the U.S. Government (Tab B) and assuming the claims are denied, suit will be filed in the not-too-distant future.

Phil Buchen further advises that the congratulatory letters would not prejudice the rights of the United States in any way in an anticipated defense of their negligence claims. However, due to the fact that so much time has expired since the incident and the additional fact that a congratulatory letter from the President might, in some limited way, give these claimants some exaggerated view of the amount of their claims he recommends against them.

Attached at Tab C is a suggested letter for your use should you decide to send the letters. A list of names and addresses of the Mayaguez crew is included with the draft letter.

Under the circumstances, do you want letters prepared for all the crew?

Yes



No

\_\_\_\_\_

Jim Connor



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 2, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ROLAND ELLIOTT

FROM:

JIM CONNOR 

The President would like to write each member of the Mayaguez crew. Please prepare appropriate letters.

By a copy of this memorandum we are requesting the National Security Council to furnish you a listing of the Mayaguez crew with mailing addresses.

Thank you.

cc: Don Rumsfeld  
Brent Scowcroft

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 29, 1975

To  
Conrad  
pct on

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DON RUMSELD

FROM:

JACK MARSH

The President told me to give you this. He wants to write a letter to each member of the Mayaguez crew.

Attachment

---

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Write each Mayaguez  
crew member.

1 . 1 . 1







D  
R  
A  
F  
T

Dear //////////////:

Before any more time passes, I want to express my admiration for the courage and steadfastness that you and all the members of the MAYAGUEZ crew displayed during the seizure of your ship.

The accounts of this incident which Captain Miller and others have passed to me leave no doubt in my mind that you all performed magnificently.

I wish you good fortune and smooth sailing in your next endeavors, and I hope that we will have an opportunity to meet personally some time in the future.

With personal best wishes,

GRF

GRF:NSC:JHH:RLE:

D  
R  
A  
F  
T

Dear //////////////:

Before any more time passes, I want to express my admiration for the courage and steadfastness that you and all the members of the MAYAGUEZ crew displayed during the seizure of your ship.

The accounts of this incident which Captain Miller and others have passed to me leave no doubt in my mind that you all performed magnificently.

I wish you good fortune and smooth sailing in your <sup>future</sup> ~~next~~ endeavors, and I hope that we will have an opportunity to meet personally some time in the future.

With personal best wishes,

GRF

GRF:NSC:JHH:RLE:

Names and Addresses of the Crew Members of the MAYAGUEZ

Charles T. Miller  
10281 Slater Avenue  
Fountain Valley, California 92704

James P. Newman  
P. O. Box 971  
Reno, Nevada

Jared C. Myregard  
6627 Ruffner Avenue  
Van Nuys, California 91406

Burton L. Coombs  
1536 Vista Avenue  
Richmond, California 94806

David C. English  
2420 First Avenue, Box 58  
Seattle, Washington 98121

Wilbert N. Bock  
192 Summit Avenue  
Bogata, New Jersey 07603

James C. Mullis  
Rt. 2, Box 325  
Wilmer, Alabama 36587

Salvatore E. Puntillo  
2832 23rd Avenue  
Kenoska, Wisconsin

Earl C. Gilbert  
3710 Pine View Drive  
Pascagaula, Mississippi

William G. MacDonald  
9204 Canal Street  
Houston, Texas

Gerald W. Bayless  
United Seaman's Service  
P. O. Box 21  
Fort Yokahama 29-191  
Yokahama, Japan

Thomas V. LaBue  
4851 Fiesta  
Temple City, California

John E. Doyle  
2319 Westbrook Drive  
Toledo, Ohio

Herbert G. McDonald  
141 Eddy Street  
San Francisco, California

Polo Russey Vasquez  
Pueta Santiago  
Puerto Rico 00741

Albert C. Minichiello  
3296 22nd Street  
San Francisco, California

Alfred J. Rappenecker  
858 Forrest Avenue  
Palo Alta, California 94301

Raymond Friedier  
169 Alcott Road  
Rochester, New York 14626

Willfredo B. Reyes  
54 Garibaldo Street, #2  
Daly City, California 94104

Americo Faria  
Oak Road, #217  
Walnut Creek, California 94596

Robert W. Phillips  
312 Pape Street  
Balut Tonde  
Manila, Philippines

Awat Sulaman  
5049 N. 16th Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19141

Frank T. Conway  
114 North 39th Avenue  
Battleburg, Mississippi

Robert E. Zimmerman  
2420 First Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98121

Carlos J. Guerrero  
Rio Bianquito  
Depto Cortes  
Honduras, California

Stephen Zarley  
Apt. 1-5B, Degusman Street  
Concepiea, Marikima  
Rizal, Philippines

Ervin W. Anderson  
4640 Marques Drive  
New Orleans, La. 70127

Guillermo C. Reyes  
54 Garibaldi Street, #2  
Daly City, California 94104

Angel L. Rios  
Pasco Delmar 3093  
Levittown, Puerto Rico 90432

William F. Bellinger  
1111 H Street, N.W., Apt. 314  
Washington, D.C. 10005

Munasser Omer  
P. O. Box 474  
Delano, California 93215

Francis Pastrano  
P. O. Box 114  
Renner, La.

Darryl Kastl  
3296 Sacramento Street  
San Francisco, California 94115

Kassem Saleh  
480 Ellis Street  
San Francisco, California 94102

David B. Partridge  
c/o Porsia, 6941 N.W. 7th St.  
Plantation Gardens  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Geraldo Lopez  
620 Lynnette Drive  
Matairie, La. 70036

Anastacio Sereno  
1623 Sunnydale  
San Francisco, California

Clifford J. Harrington  
123 Felix Street, Apt. 7  
Santa Cruz, California 99080

Vernon Greenlin  
2452 Melbrook Way  
Santa Rosa, California 95405

Juan P. Sanchez  
546 Ellington Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94112

100

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: JIM CONNOR

SUBJECT: Presidential Letters to  
Members of the Mayaguez  
Crew

Would appreciate your review and recommendation of the attached file concerning the possibility of sending Presidential letters to members of the Mayaguez Crew.

Please return the entire file with your recommendation.  
Thank you.

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

October 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CONNOR

FROM:

PHIL BUCHEN 

Contrary to the representation made in the cover memorandum, the five Mayaguez crew members have not yet filed suit against the United States. They have, however, filed administrative claims and assuming the claims are denied, suit will be filed in the not-too-distant future.

The congratulatory letters would not prejudice the rights of the United States in any way in an anticipated defense of their negligence claims.

However, due to the fact that so much time has expired since the incident and the additional fact that a congratulatory letter from the President might, in some limited way, give these claimants some exaggerated view of the amount of their claim, I would recommend against them.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Delay caused  
by crew member  
killed  
in auto  
accident

Soon as they can  
determine which  
member was killed  
letter will be typed

October 24, 1975

Dear Mr. Guerrero:

Before any more time passes, I want to express my admiration for the courage and steadfastness that you and all the members of the MAYAGUEZ crew displayed during the seizure of your ship.

The accounts of this incident which Captain Miller and others have related to me leave no doubt in my mind that you all performed magnificently.

I wish you good fortune and smooth sailing in your future endeavors, and I hope that we will have an opportunity to meet personally some time in the future.

With personal best wishes,

Mr. Carlos J. Guerrero  
Rio Blanco  
Depto Cortes  
Honduras

GRF:NSC:JHH:RLE:beo

*Some letters signed 10/22 + others 10/24/75.*