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Situation Report on the MAYAGUEZ

The vessel is now about 20 miles outside the port of Kompong Som, one mile north of an island called Koh Tang (see map at Tab A).

The vessel is being kept under our continuous surveillance by radar and/or sight. Some of our reconnaissance aircraft have been fired upon, and one has been hit. One reconnaissance flight placed some ordnance in the water to signal the Mayaguez not to get under way.

The recon flights report that personnel are being off-loaded from the vessel to a tug boat. This could be a good sign if the personnel are the Cambodians who boarded the vessel, but a bad sign if the personnel are Americans.

On the diplomatic front, Acting Secretary Ingersoll was unable to present his statement to Huang Chen yesterday. However, USLO in Peking delivered the message to the Cambodian Embassy at 12:10 Peking time on May 13 and also delivered the same message to the mailroom of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since the Chinese said that an officer would not receive it until later.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By KBH, NARA, Date 1/20/00

The Thai Prime Minister has told reporters that Thailand "will not allow Thai bases to be used in any war the United States intends to create." The Thai followed this up by calling in our Chargé to tell him not to make use of Thai bases in any effort to release the ship. It is not clear whether this prohibition includes reconnaissance, but we can probably proceed with that for the time being since it is not specifically excluded. However, we may have some problems with the Marines that we wish to land at Utapao since, whatever our intent, they will appear to be readying for combat.



