

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



13 May 75

Lora:

I have transcribed my telcons from tonight. I didn't monitor all the calls back and forth to Defense Dept. but these do include all the Presidential calls of tonight along with one with the President during the early morning hours.

There may have been others with the President from last night/early am -- this could be checked with Anne or Marilyn.

Bud suggested these be held -- at least until the crisis is over -- they may be needed for record-check purposes.

Wilma

General Scowcroft/The President
2:23 a.m., May 13, 1975

S: Mr. President, I am sorry to bother you.

P: That's all right.

S: I told the people I was to be notified the minute the ship moved. It is now underway and it is 15 minutes out of Kampong Som.

P: What happened?

S: I am so mad, I'm just -- I have asked them to have any F-4s from Thailand launched. I don't think there is a chance of intercepting them now. At 12 knots, it is about an hour out of port. There is no evidence of escort vessels. If we can get any fighters in the air, we could fire across the bow and attempt to turn it around.

P: I think that is all we can do if there are no surface vessels there.

S: We certainly don't . . . With your approval, Mr. President, if we can get some planes in the air --

P: I think you ought to try that. It doesn't seem to me there is any other alternative, Brent. But dammit, they hadn't better sink it now!!!

S: No, sir, that would be disastrous.

P: That would be the ultimate in stupidity. You tell them to do that, Brent. I will see you -- what time is it? I don't even know.

S: It is 2:25. I will call you if anything unusual takes place.

P: Don't hesitate to do that, Brent. Thank you.



The President/General Scowcroft
8:10 p.m., May 13, 1975

P: Hello

S: Mr. President.

P: Yes, Brent.

S: I just have one quick one. Three little boats have taken off toward the northeast. One boat has been sunk. The second has turned back and the third is continuing at full speed. If they can't stop it any other way, we have no choice but to destroy it.

P: I think we have no choice.

S: It is obvious they know what we want.

P: No, I think you should. If we don't do it, it is an indication of some considerable weakness.

S: No question about it.

P: I think we should just give it to them.

S: To show them we mean business.

P: I am glad they got the first two. I think we ought to take the action on the third one.

S: Thank you, Sir.



27-08911-1

General Wickham/General Scowcroft
8:15 p.m., May 13, 1975

S: He (the President) says yes, they have got to be stopped. If they can't do it any other way, it has to be destroyed.

W: We may lose the thing here in the next few minutes.
All right, Brent.



Declassified MK 80-2, #3

General Wickham/General Scowcroft
9:48 p.m., May 13, 1975

W: We have got one of these little boats five miles off Kampong Som. No aircraft around with RCA. They have expended. Pilot reports a group of what looks like Caucasians huddled on the bow. He made several passes. The pilot thinks he could probably disable it by hitting it in the rear. Can we get Presidential approval?

S: Do you need it? He's already . . .

W: Well, now we have a question as to the identity of the people on the bow. Do we want to stop them and possibly sink the boat? Why don't you run it by the President. I have an open line to them and you can get right back to me.



Delivered MR 10-5-74

The President/General Scowcroft
9:50 p.m., May 13, 1975

- S: We have another boat. There is one survivor in a raft. I don't know whether they have picked him up or not. We have just had a report that on one of the boats which is five miles off Kampong Som there may be some Caucasians held in the front. The pilot thinks he can stop it without sinking it.
- P: Right. As I understand it, one fled and got to another island and then we sank the one and the third one is the one you are discussing.
- S: Yeah.
- P: Well, I don't think we have any choice.
- S: If they get the Americans to the mainland they have hostages and . . .
- P: We have to predicate all these actions on the possibility of losing Americans.
- S: I will have them ask the pilot to do his best to stop it without sinking it.
- P: I think that is right. I will be over there in about 15 minutes.
- S: I will have the Defense Department Option Paper by then.
- P: Okay, Brent.



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General Wickham/General Scowcroft
9:54 p.m., May 13, 1975

S: Go ahead, John. Have the pilot to disable it and not to sink it.

W: All right, Brent.



Delivered MK 80-5140