

PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVES

ISSUED AT THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

ON MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT

National Security Council Meeting (draft minutes Tab A)
Monday, May 12, 1975: 12:05 - 12:50 p. m.

During the course of the NSC meeting the President issued the following directives:

- We will issue a strong public statement within an hour or so. Let us not tell Congress that we will do anything militarily since we have not decided [yet].
- We should turn the Coral Sea around; get a task force assembled at Subic Bay and maybe get underway. Perhaps we will scramble a force to take the island.
- We should get a full photo run of the island and of the harbor where the ship is.
- We should prepare to mine using the Hancock.
- DOD should prepare an options paper by Monday (May 12) afternoon.
- We should get a message to the Chinese Government as soon as possible.

National Security Council Meeting(draft minutes Tab B)
Tuesday, May 13, 1975: 10:15 - 11:17 a. m.

During the course of this meeting the President ordered that:

- First, we would use the aircraft to stop any boats between the island [and the mainland]. You should not sink them necessarily, but can you take some preventive action.
- Second, you should stop all boats coming into [and leaving] the island.



- Third, you should be prepared to land on the ship tomorrow morning. If they [the Cambodians] try to move the ship, we must try to take steps to stop it, without sinking it.
- Fourth, would be to have the Marines at Utapao, 1,000 strong, and then we would need to decide how soon they should go to the island.

Secretary Schlesinger summarizes for the President:

- At 7:00 p. m. tonight Washington time, we can have some Marines.
- At 8:00 a. m. tomorrow Washington time, the Holt will be in position.
- Somewhere between that time the additional Marines will be in Utapao.

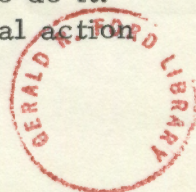
The President then concluded:

- Let's get the facts and the times lined up; steps one and two can be done. The next steps should be written in sequence as to when they can take place.

National Security Council Meeting (draft minutes Tab C)
Tuesday, May 13, 1975: 10:40 p. m. - 12:25 a. m.

During the course of the meeting the President ordered that:

- We will sink the boat near the island. On the other boat, use riot control agents or other methods, but do not attack it.
- We rule out any action on this daylight cycle [May 14 Cambodia time]. Then the next day [May 15 Cambodia time] the Holt gets there. The people in Utapao should be prepared to be operating as soon as the Holt gets there at noon tomorrow [Washington time]. The Marines should be alerted. Operational orders should be set up so that the Holt and Marines can go. We should have orders ready to go so that they can move within 24 hours. That would be for the Holt, the Marines and the B-52's. Let's have the B-52's ready to carry out the mission if we decide to do it. But unless there is some unusual development, the actual action will take place 24 hours later [May 16 Cambodia time].



Schlesinger summarized and the President agreed that:

- We will be prepared to go on the morning of the 15th. We will see if we can get the Marines on the Holt. At first light, we will have plans to go to the island. Simultaneously, we will go for the ship. We will have the B-52's at Guam ready to go for Kompong Som on the 15th and the aircraft from the Coral Sea ready on the 16th.

The President then ordered that:

- We should sink several small patrol boats near the island. We should sink any boats that can be used to try to force the Americans.
- Colby should verify that T-28's are there [at Kompong Som].
- The press should know of the NSC meeting. Regarding reports to Congress we should say that we have ordered that no enemy boats should leave the island but that if they did, they would be sunk.
- The press spokesman should make a short announcement tomorrow noon [May 14 EDT] explaining why we are doing it, say it was ordered by the President and executed by the NSC and answer no other questions.

National Security Council Meeting (draft minutes Tab D)
Wednesday, May 14, 1975: 3:52 p.m.

The President issued the following orders:

- To launch both operations: landing on the island at 6:45 a.m. and on the ship at 8:45 a.m. These operations should go on schedule and not delay. Then, whether or not we find the Americans, you can strike.
be speeded up to
- The Coral Sea's first attack should coincide with the attack on the island and on the ship. If we use the Coral Sea, you are then using it to protect the people on the operation. Second, if you use the Coral Sea with the Smart bombs, you are hitting military targets and will not possibly do harm to the Americans.



- You [Defense] should reexamine the Coral Sea operation with the expectation to keep it going. The Coral Sea operation should not stop until we tell them.
- I think we should hit the planes, the boats, and the ships if they are Cambodian.
- The Hancock will arrive at 0400 on Friday. It could be used to for the Marines being taken off.

National Security Council Meeting (draft minutes at Tab E)
Thursday, May 15, 1975

This was a wrap-up session. No military directives were given.

