

18

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET / SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Functioning of the Intelligence Community During the  
Mayaguez Crisis

The President has reviewed the performance of all agencies of the Executive Branch during the Mayaguez crisis, and has evaluated the functioning of our national security decision-making mechanism. On the whole, the President believes the system worked well, and compliments those members of the Central Intelligence Agency who contributed to the successful recovery of the ship.

The President has, however, identified certain areas in which he believes there is room for improvement. The President noted that some of the information provided during the first NSC meeting was incorrect and misleading, even though CIA presented it as hard fact. He referred specifically to the information that the Mayaguez was about to enter or had entered the port of Kompong Som. We later learned, of course, that this was not the case and that the ship never came near the mainland. The President requests that you take steps to insure that information received during any future crisis is given extremely rigorous analysis and that you present it with appropriate caveats.

The President has reviewed the other changes you have presented to improve our CRITIC system and the coordination of information between agencies. The President agrees with your recommendations in these areas and encourages you to continue to work at refining this system.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines

By KBY, NARA, Date 12/21/99

Henry A. Kissinger



TOP SECRET / SENSITIVE