THAILAND AND THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT: May 1975
MARINES ARRIVE AT U TAPHAO: HELICOPTERS ON ALERT

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0411 GMT 14 May 75 BK

[Text] U.S. Government news sources indicate that the United States yesterday began to dispatch more than 1,000 Marines by plane to Thailand in order to assist the U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez seized by the Cambodians. The U.S. Marines were dispatched by C-141 jets to U Taphao from Okinawa and the Philippines. The sources indicate that a (?small) group of Marines arrived at U Taphao yesterday. The dispatch of the Marines was disclosed at a time when it was reported that the Mayaguez was stationary at a given point. However, an earlier report indicated that the Mayaguez was moving slowly.

The White House spokesman stated that President Ford called a meeting of the National Security Council last night to discuss the Mayaguez. This was the second meeting held yesterday to discuss this matter. The spokesman reported that it was not an emergency meeting; that it was held according to schedule because Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger had not arrived back in Washington. The sources also indicated that Noel Gayler, U.S. commander in chief in the Pacific, was called to Washington. It was believed that the admiral also attended the meeting. It is said that the military group discussed sending U.S. Marine helicopters to land on the Mayaguez and on Tang Island near the ship. Tang Island is some 30 miles from the Cambodian coast. More than 200 transport helicopters are ready to take off from U Taphao.

The United States is trying to obtain the release of the Mayaguez and its 39 crewmen by diplomatic means. A news report via the PRC indicates that the U.S. authorities are not certain if the crewmen are still on the ship.

KHUKRIT MEETS WITH U.S. CHARGE ON MAYAGUEZ

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 13 May 75 BK

[Text] At 1500 today the U.S. charge d'affaires met with Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot at Government House over the seizure of a U.S. cargo ship by the Khmer Rouge. The meeting lasted 15 minutes. The prime minister told reporters at 1600 today [recorded]:

I asked the U.S. charge about the details of the seizure, but, he has not yet received any details except for what we already know. However, the U.S. Government regards this as a very important matter because it concerns U.S. sovereignty. The U.S. Government is now trying to solve this by diplomatic means and is trying to get the ship back.

[Question] How does the U.S. Government negotiate for the return of the ship?


[Question] Negotiate with Cambodia?

[Answer] Yes, by going through a third country.
In brief, the great victory of the Soviet people and the Red Army over international fascism has clearly changed the situation in the world. It also changed the balance of power of socialism, national liberation movements and the struggles for peace, democracy and social progress with aggressive and warmongering imperialism in favor of all progressive forces throughout the world. This great victory has brought overwhelming pride to mankind.

For our Lao revolution, the great victory of the Soviet people and the Red Army over the Japanese fascists created an opportunity for the Lao patriotic forces to rise up and carry out the revolution beginning in October 1945. With the sincere support and assistance of the USSR and the fraternal socialist countries and friends throughout the world, the Lao people's national liberation struggle has won one great victory after another, culminating in the signing of the Vientiane agreement on restoring peace and achieving national concord and its protocol as well as the formation of the PNU and the NPCC.

On this occasion, on behalf of the LPF and the Lao people, I express our profound thanks and gratitude toward the CPSU, the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Government, the Soviet people and the Red Army for rendering invaluable support and assistance to our just struggle. We once again reiterate that we will increase our solidarity and friendship with the USSR, the fraternal socialist countries, the national liberation movements and the movements for peace, democracy and social progress throughout the world, thus making them durable forever. We are resolved to carry out the struggle for the strict and complete implementation of the Vientiane agreement and its protocol, thus contributing to the defense of peace in Southeast Asia and the world.

On this auspicious occasion, we wholeheartedly wish the CPSU, the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Government, the Soviet people and the Red Army yet greater victories in the struggle to build the economic and technical bases for the communist system in the USSR and to safeguard the world peace.

May the fraternal friendship and militant solidarity between the Lao people and the LEFA, and the Soviet people and the Red Army be further consolidated and grow stronger.

Muong Viengsay, 8 May 1975

Prince Souphanouvong, LPF Central Committee chairman.
IV. 14 May 75

[Question] Through us?

[Answer] No, not through us. I have also told the U.S. charge that should diplomatic negotiations fail and should there be any military retaliation, the Thai Government will not become involved and will regard it as a matter between the United States and Cambodia. The Thai Government will definitely not become involved.

[Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai at 0000 GMT 14 May carries a similar report on Khukrit's meeting with the U.S. charge, and adds the following: "Moreover, the Thai Government will not be able to allow to use of bases in Thailand, including U Taphao base, for this purpose. The U.S. charge acknowledged this.

[Regarding reports that the PRGSRV may demand compensation from Thailand for the removal of the military planes flown into Thailand from South Vietnam, the prime minister said that problems can be resolved through negotiations, as a PRGSRV delegation is coming to Thailand soon."]

KHUKRIT CALLS USE OF BASES FOR MARINES 'BREACH OF PROMISE'

[Text] Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot said in an interview to reporters at 1000 today that if it is true that the United States had dispatched Marines to Thailand in preparation for military operations against Cambodia, the Thai Government will lodge a serious protest against the United States. The prime minister added that he had met and talked with the U.S. charge d'affaires on this matter yesterday, whereupon the charge promised not to use Thai territory for military operations against Cambodia.

He added that if the United States continues to send more forces to Thailand, this would constitute a breach of promise. He said: This will seriously affect Thai-U.S. friendship. We will have to protest, because we do not want the United States to do this. If the United States does so anyway, we will not be able to get along with each other.

Meanwhile, news report from the Foreign Ministry indicate that some 800 U.S. Marines arrived at U Taphao airbase from Okinawa at 0415 today.

Threatens To Sever Relations

[Excerpts] The United States today airlifted more than 1,000 Marines to U Taphao airbase for a possible mission to rescue the U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez, seized by Cambodia.

Prime Minister Khukrit Pramot said this morning: "We shall have to make a strong protest and even consider severing relations with the United States."

M.R. Khukrit said: "I was checking until late last night whether it was true that the Marines were here but without success."
"We shall have to take the most severe diplomatic measures against America."

The prime minister said earlier that he had made it clear to the U.S. authorities that U Taphao Airbase is under Thai sovereignty and we did not want any involvement in the U.S.-Cambodia dispute over the seized ship.

Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army Gen Krit Sivara said this morning that the United States must inform Thai authorities first if she wanted to send her troops into the country but Thai authorities had not received such request up to very late last night.

He also said that he did not see any reason for the United States to send in her troops. "Such an incident is not worth opening a war".

NATION Reports 'Measures' Taken

Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 May 75 p 1 BK

[Excerpts] Thailand and the United States yesterday appeared to be heading toward a new diplomatic collision over U.S. plans to send 1,000 Marines to Thailand following the Cambodian seizure of an American merchant ship in international waters.

Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pranot said last night the government will not allow the Marines to enter the country.

He added that measures have already been laid down to prevent the U.S. from sending the Marines here. He did not disclose details of the measures.

The premier was yesterday appointed acting-foreign minister and will hold the position until Foreign Minister Chatchai Chunhawan returns from the ASEAN ministerial conference in Kuala Lumpur.

GOVERNMENT SETS 15 MAY DEADLINE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF MARINES

Hong Kong AFP in English 1144 GMT 14 May 75 BK

[Text] Bangkok, May 14 (AFP)--Thailand has demanded that the U.S. Government withdraw all 1,100 U.S. Marines who arrived at U Taphao airbase this morning "as soon as possible", Thai Premier Khukrit Pranot told newsmen this morning. The demand was made in a protest note to the U.S. Government which was handed to U.S. Embassy Minister Edward Masters in a 10-minute meeting with Premier Khukrit this afternoon.

The prime minister described the arrival of the Marines as "a violation of Thailand's sovereignty". "That is why we are protesting", he said. If the U.S. Government failed to withdraw the Marines by tomorrow morning, Thai-U.S. relations would be "severely affected" and appropriate action would have to be considered, he warned.
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Meanwhile, Premier Khukrit told reporters that he had learned "unofficially" that the U.S. Government, on hearing of Thailand's reaction to the arrival of the Marines, is preparing to withdraw them from U Taphao, an American occupied base on the Gulf of Thailand.

'WORLD' EDITORIAL RAPS U.S. FOR SENDING MARINES TO U TAPHAO

Bangkok WORLD in English 14 May 75 p 4 BK

[Editorial: "All Wrong to Involve Thailand"]

[Text] In describing the seizure of the American cargo ship Mayaguez as an "act of piracy", President Ford hit the nail on the head. It is an incredibly stupid action by the Khmer Rouge at a time when sensitivities in Southeast Asia are so acute.

Hopefully the situation will be defused today as the communists realise their folly and release the ship and its crew. This will prevent the "most serious consequences" which America has warned of.

It is difficult to understand the American policy on their show of force in sending more than 1,000 Marines to U Taphao airbase in Thailand, despite the plea by Prime Minister Khukrit Pramot that no extra troops are sent here as a result of the incident.

Reports were a little confused this morning, but it seems certain that a small contingent of Marines have already arrived and more are on the way.

Why is this necessary? America already has some 26,000 troops in this country, so what difference are another 1,000 going to make? If it is so essential that America shows Cambodia that it is doing something, there is no earthly reason why those extra forces cannot remain on warships in the gulf.

Thai-American relations are in a dicey enough state as it is. Of course America cannot sit back and let Cambodia glory in their seizure of the ship, but it is completely wrong that Thailand should be dragged into issues. It is only laying us all the more open to the accusations of "imperialist domination."

CABINET SETS UP COMMITTEE ON GENERAL U.S. TROOPS WITHDRAWAL 13 MAY

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 13 May 75 BK

[Excerpts] At 1330 today minister attached to the prime minister's office Pricha Phatthanathabut, deputy spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office Charun Kuvanon, and public relations director general Maj Gen Prakop Charumani told reporters at Government House that the weekly cabinet meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot. The cabinet considered the following important issues:

The appointment of a committee to consider the problems concerning U.S. bases. In order to implement the government's policy on the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Thailand within 12 months, the Foreign Ministry has proposed the appointment of a committee to consider the problems of the bases which the United States is using.

The committee comprises: the foreign minister, chairman; the armed forces chief of staff, deputy chairman; the undersecretaries of the Foreign Affairs, Interior and Industry ministries; the secretary general of the National Economic and Social Development Committee; the secretary general of the National Security Council; the army, navy, and air force chiefs of staff and the director general of the Political Department of the Foreign Ministry as committee members and secretaries; representatives of the Supreme Command headquarters and the National Economic and Social Development Board as committee members and assistant secretaries.
The duties of the committee are:

1. To set definite schedules for the troop withdrawal and to oversee the smooth transfer of base facilities in the best national interest.

2. To make suggestions to the government in bargaining with the United States concerning the handing over of equipment and weaponry which would be beneficial to the Thai military and economy.

3. To lay down measures to prevent or solve military and economic problems which might cause repercussions to the country after the troop withdrawal.

4. To draw a clear line on military and civilian requirements to determine what equipment is for the military and the civilian economy.

5. To analyze guidelines for the use of the bases, buildings and equipment for military or economic benefit.

6. To make suggestions to the government in negotiating with the United States to request its help to transform the bases for economic benefit.

After considering the issue, the cabinet approved the appointment of this committee.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 12 May 75 BK

[Text] Foreign Minister Maj Gen Chatchai Chunhawan said that the Foreign Ministry will bring the problem of Vietnamese refugees up for discussion with the delegations of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the North Vietnamese Government which are scheduled to visit Thailand soon.

The foreign minister stated this in his telegram to the provincial governor of Sakhon Nakhon Province yesterday evening in answering the demand of the protestors who are demonstrating against the Vietnamese refugees and wanted the foreign minister to visit Sakhon Nakhon to explain the repatriation of Vietnamese refugees. The foreign minister explained in his telegram that the Thai and Vietnamese Red Cross societies are in charge of repatriating Vietnamese refugees, which was halted when the United States bombed North Vietnam. Since the war in Vietnam has now ended, negotiations on repatriating Vietnamese refugees will resume. He said that the obstacles to this work do not originate with the Thai side. The Thai policy is to repatriate all Vietnamese refugees, and some have already been repatriated.

Meanwhile, a Foreign Ministry official reported that the ministry had received a telegram from the PRGRSV through the Thai Embassy in Vientiane saying that the PRGRSV will send a delegation to Thailand in the latter part of this week or early next week to hold negotiations on the airplanes and weapons brought into Thailand by troops of the former South Vietnamese government.
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They have taken advantage of Thai farmers and competed to push Thai hawkers out of the market. They would wait by the roadside for Thai farmers to come with their produce to market. They would bargain for the whole goods, ask the farmers to go home and then take the produce to the market to sell at a profit. The marketplace which has been virtually built specially for Thai hawkers have been taken over by Vietnamese in some provinces.

Provincial officials are largely to blame for allowing this situation to develop but the clannishness of the Vietnamese has contributed to the tension. Thai authorities have long considered the Vietnamese refugees a potential fifth column for Hanoi. It is suspected that they are under the control of a cadre of hardcore Vietnamese communists. Although there is no concrete evidence of it, communists in the Vietnamese community have allegedly helped in the training and indoctrination of Thai insurgents. Many officers with the North Vietnamese forces in Laos are believed to know the Thai language. They are probably refugees who had been sent back to North Vietnam in the evacuation operation organized by North Vietnam and Thai Red Cross Society. In the past, the Vietnamese refugees had held demonstrations against the Thai Government and local authorities. Sometimes they have blocked the passage of official cars or surrounded police stations. The South Vietnamese Embassy here in Bangkok was incapable of bringing the refugees under control because they have no loyalty to the toppled Saigon regime.

Now that the fighting is over in Vietnam there should be no question whatsoever that these Vietnamese refugees be repatriated to their fatherland. The refugees had come here to escape becoming victims of the battles in their country. North Vietnam which lost so many men in the war against the French, the Americans and the South Vietnamese, will desperately need these refugees back home to participate in efforts at rebuilding the nation. The dispatch home of these refugees should be one of the main subjects in negotiations between our government and Hanoi.

However, some sympathetic consideration should be given to those Vietnamese born here who consider Thailand their home, who have taken up the Thai language and Thai culture, and who are willing to swear loyalty to Thailand. Such offspring of the Vietnamese refugees will find it difficult to adjust to a new life in Vietnam. However, there are many aspects of the problem which have to be studied carefully before a decision is made. While being humanitarian, the government has to place national security as a prime consideration in making a decision.

The arrest of persons involved in the destruction and looting of Vietnamese shops is justified. No matter what the provocation, law and order has to be maintained. Nobody should be allowed to break the law in any demonstration. At a time when Thailand would like to open friendly relations with North Vietnam, it is inadvisable to do anything to hurt the subjects of Hanoi. If the people want them out of the country, they should demonstrate peacefully and the government should negotiate with Hanoi for the repatriation of the refugees without any bad taste being left in the mouth of anyone. It is unfortunate that the event has taken place at this crucial time but the authorities have acted admirably, to punish the wrongdoers and to promise to satisfy the public demand.
LATE REPORT: TEXT OF GOVERNMENT PROTEST ON MARINES

Bangkok TTT-TV in Thai 1238 GMT 14 May 75 BK

[Text of 14 May Government statement--read by announcer]

[Text] On Tuesday, 13 May 1975, the prime minister, in the capacity of acting foreign minister, summoned U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires Edward Masters to Government House and informed him of the Thai Government resolution--on the dispute between the United States and Cambodia on the Cambodian seizure of the U.S. ship "Mayaguez"--that the Thai Government does not want to get involved in the matter and that if the U.S. Government decides to retaliate against Cambodia by force, the Thai Government will not allow the United States to use Thai territory to carry out such an act. The U.S. Embassy charge acknowledged the Thai Government's position and said that the U.S. will respect the resolution.

At 1550 today, the prime minister, in the capacity of acting foreign minister, once again invited the U.S. Embassy charge to meet him at Government House and asked him about the entry of a number of U.S. troops into Thailand. The U.S. Embassy official said that he learned that an estimated 1,100 U.S. Marines have landed at U Taphao air-base sometime today. Thus, the prime minister handed a memorandum to the charge to officially protest against the U.S. Government's act, which runs counter to the Thai Government's resolution. The memorandum reads:

On 14 May 1975, the Thai Government learned that the U.S. Government sent a number of U.S. Marines into Thailand as part of its retaliatory action against Cambodia. In connection with such a development, the Thai Government is of the view that the action of the U.S. Government is not in conformity with the existing feelings between Thailand and the United States. If the aforementioned troops, who have entered Thailand against the wishes of the Thai Government, are not immediately withdrawn, the existing good relations and cooperation between the two countries will be affected and serious damage may develop.

The Office of the Prime Minister.

APP: MARINES TO BE FLOWN OUT TO CARRIER 15 MAY

Hong Kong APP in English 1304 GMT 14 May 75 BK

[Excerpt] Bangkok, May 14 (APP) -- More than 1,100 American Marines flown to Thailand despite the strong opposition of the Thai Government are due to be transferred to the aircraft carrier Coral Sea early Thursday. American military sources said today.

The sources said the Marines would be flown to the carrier by helicopter from the sprawling U Taphao air base on the Gulf of Thailand, 150 kilometres (90 miles) southeast of Bangkok.
Army Commander General Krit Siwara, speaking to reporters today, denied reports that some Thai army generals and colonels have deserted and left the country to live abroad. He cited the example that during the invasion by Japan all of our troops fought to the last man although we had fewer troops than the other side. The army commander asked the mass media to refrain from presenting such reports since they might cause panic, as in Cambodia and South Vietnam. To say such things would only demoralize the people. It is a contemptuous act. Moreover, it would also demoralize the troops and border patrol policemen who are performing their duties to protect the country. They might wonder why they had to fight while their commanders, the generals and colonels, are preparing to leave the country.

The army commander asserted that no armed forces officers of the rank of general or colonel have fled the country. He said that anyone thinking of leaving the country will be considered a traitor to his beloved country.

Concerning the seizure of a U.S. cargo ship by the Khmer Rouge—which has now become a big issue—General Krit said he does not believe this matter will lead to war. Asked whether the United States can use this issue to save face, the army commander said definitely not, because if the United States wanted to save face it could have done so before the fall of Phnom Penh.

The army commander added that it is good that the North Vietnamese delegation will visit Thailand at the end of this month because negotiations can be held to settle every misunderstanding, including the problems of Vietnamese refugees in Thailand. He said that this will create good understanding between us.

Asked about the U.S. dispatch of Marines to U Taphao, the army commander said that the prime minister had also contacted him by phone asking him whether the reports about this were true. The army commander told the prime minister that he does not know anything about this matter. He said that if it is true that U.S. Marines have been sent here, the U.S. authorities must first inform Thai authorities, either through the Foreign Affairs or Defense ministries, so that we can inform our government.

As to the reports that Cambodia has asked Thailand to move the demarcation milestone at Trat Province 500 meters back into Thai territory, claiming that we have encroached upon the Cambodian border, the army commander said that this matter is the responsibility of the government. He said that the Cambodian Government must negotiate with the Thai Government on this matter and that it is not a matter that can be handled at the local level. The army commander believes that this is only a threat by the Cambodian side.

Asked about his opinion on the reports that Gen Vang Pao has set up a government-in-exile in Thailand, General Krit said that it was impossible. He said Thailand definitely will not allow him to do that.
THAILAND'S 'HOSTILE' ACTIONS CONDEMNED

Foreign Ministry Spokesman

Hanoi VNA in English 1708 GMT 13 May 1975

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 13--A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam today issued a statement condemning the Thai reactionaries for engineering demonstrations against Vietnamese residents in Sakon Nakhon Province. The statement says:

"These hostile acts against Vietnamese residents taken by the Thai reactionaries, flunkies of U.S. imperialism, are aimed at glossing over their scheme of maintaining U.S. military bases in Thailand, sidetracking the Thai people's struggle for independence and democracy, sabotaging the traditional friendship between the peoples of the two countries, and creating obstacles to the normalization of the relations between Vietnam and Thailand.

"The Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam sternly condemns these hostile acts of the pro-U.S. Thai reactionaries. It demands that the Thai Government take timely measures to stop at once similar actions."

The statement stresses: "The Thai Government has the full responsibility to guarantee the lives and property of the Vietnamese residents in Thailand and to leave them in peace to earn their living like other foreign residents."

Radio Commentary

Hanoi in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1434 GMT 13 May 1975

[Station commentary: "We Sternly Warn Against Hostile Actions of Thai Reactionaries"]

[Text] According to foreign reports, on 10 and 11 May repeated demonstrations took place in northeastern Thailand demanding the expulsion of Vietnamese who have long lived in this area. According to the same reports, some Vietnamese residents' homes were ransacked.

Obviously, these hostile acts against the Vietnamese people run counter to the earnest desire of the Vietnamese and Thai peoples to maintain friendly relations between the two countries. They are also at variance with the Thai authorities' most recent statements concerning their wish to establish good neighborhood relations between Thailand and Vietnam.

It was not coincidental that the anti-Vietnamese demonstrations took place in Sakon Nakhon: they were obviously organized and directed by the Thai reactionaries. This fact is very clear considering the recent events that have taken place: Thai Defense Minister Praman Adireksan on 7 May publicly abetted the Ford administration in robbing the Vietnamese people of their property. It was with this odious and deplorable collusion that the U.S. aircraft carrier Midway could spirit away from Thailand many aircraft which belong to the Vietnamese people.

The Vietnamese people also remember the provocative statements made time and again by Thai Defense Minister Praman Adireksan, representative of a group which does not reflect the patriotism and friendliness of the Thai people.
PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW ON PROTEST OVER U.S. MARINES

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1320 GMT 14 May 75 BK

[Text] Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot reiterated in a press interview that Thailand will not allow the United States to use bases in Thailand in its retaliatory acts against the Khmer Rouge. The prime minister discussed this in his interview with reporters this evening after summoning the U.S. Embassy minister to meet him once again at 1545 today. The prime minister told the press about the seizure of the U.S. merchant ship by the Khmer Rouge: [recorded]

[Khukrit] Reports said that the Cambodian forces fired on and seized the U.S. merchant ship. Foreign reports also said that the United States strongly reacted to the Cambodian action. According to some reports yesterday, the United States said it would try to solve this problem through diplomatic means. If such a diplomatic approach failed, violent military action would be taken.

After learning of this incident, I summoned the U.S. Embassy minister to my office and asked him about the details of the incident. He confirmed that the foreign reports were true. I, therefore, told him that if the United States should decide to retaliate with force, the U.S. Government must know that the Thai Government considers such a matter to be between the United States and Cambodia alone. The Thai Government does not wish to get involved in whatever way in this issue, and it will not allow the United States to use the bases in Thailand, which are under an agreement with the Thai Government, in a way which would get us involved in such a military retaliation. The U.S. Embassy minister acknowledged what I said and reassured me that all U.S. bases--er, the [Thai] bases, not U.S. bases, in accordance with the agreement, particularly at U Taphao--would not be used in any way which might be construed as a military retaliation if such an act should take place.

This morning I learned that the United States had sent an estimated 1,100 U.S. Marines into U Taphao. Therefore, I summoned the U.S. Embassy minister to see me at this office at 1545 today and asked him about the truth of this development. He admitted that it was true. In that case, I had no choice but to hand him a protest note to be forwarded to his government. I have learned unofficially that after learning our wishes, they would transport these troops out of Thailand as soon as possible.

[Question] (Have they informed us about this?)

[Answer] I learned it unofficially. I will not confirm it. It is not definite. I will wait and see tomorrow.

In the protest note, we call on the United States to withdraw these troops from Thailand as soon as possible. There is no definite schedule for that--just at the earliest. At least I will wait until tomorrow morning to see what the situation is. Immediately, not [word indistinct]. In English we use "immediately", "Immediate withdrawal" of these troops. U.S. troops can be sent to these bases only with our consent. I am the head of this government. When I said that I did not approve of it, I didn't have to ask anyone else. We have already stated in the protest note that these troops must be withdrawn immediately, and that if no action is forthcoming our relations will be seriously affected.
When we knew that something might happen, we summoned the U.S. minister to tell him, as friends, and he also promised that such a thing would not take place. When the minister, who is the representative of the United States in Thailand, had given us such a promise--to the head of the government--such a promise must become a commitment.

Even with such a promise, they still persist in doing it. I, therefore, have to protest. I have no other choice. Once we protest, we must ask them to withdraw those troops immediately. If no immediate withdrawal is forthcoming, we will know by tomorrow what will happen. In that case, our friendly relations will be seriously affected. We will see what we will do next.

OPPOSITION LEADER SENI SUPPORTS KHUKRIT ON MARINES

[Text] M.R. Seni Pramot, leader of the House of Representatives' opposition party, spoke to reporters this morning on relations between Thailand and the United States. He said that Thailand should no longer allow U.S. troops to use our bases for starting wars with our neighboring countries. He voiced support for the statement made by Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot yesterday, saying that it is correct not to allow the United States to use Thai territory to conduct military operations against Cambodia.

Seni said that during the past decade Thailand had allowed the United States to use our bases excessively to wage war in Cambodia and Vietnam. From now on, Thailand should not allow the United States to do this. He said that from now on Thailand's foreign policy should not lean on any superpower because we will not be able to withdraw ourselves from it. We should have relations with every country--particularly, we must have relations with China. Although the leaders of that country at one time announced that they would support the liberation movement in Thailand, Thailand should be friendly by extending its hand to that country. This may help reduce or end all insurgency, he said.

 Asked whether he is disappointed with the U.S. policy toward Asian countries, M.R. Seni said that we cannot be disappointed or satisfied with the policy of the superpower, but the United States should realize that its action might affect Thailand. For example, if Vietnam asks for compensation, who will pay it? Will the United States pay it? He maintained, however, that we cannot put all the blame on the United States. It was also our fault because the former military governments made agreements with the United States which prevent us from doing anything. He said that he did not know what agreements have been made, but it appears that Thailand has closely committed itself to the United States.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ON U.S. INTENTIONS, USE OF PLANES

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Pracha Khunakasem stated that a report received from the U.S. charge d'affaires at 1100 today said that some of the U.S. Marines had left U-Tapao directly for Tang Island, for operations there. Some aircraft from various airbases also took part in the operations. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the report will immediately be given to Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot, who is also acting foreign minister, for further action after he returns to Bangkok from the provinces at 1500 today.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the U.S. charge d'affaires had reported that all crewmen of the Mayaguez were rescued and subsequently brought to Tang Island after release by Cambodian officials, who brought them on a ship flying a white flag. The U.S. Marines have taken over the Mayaguez and will sail it from Tang Island, or will tow it away if it cannot operate on its own power.
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Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 14 May 75 BK

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Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 15 May 75 BK

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[Khukrit] Reports said that the Cambodian forces fired on and seized the U. S. merchant ship. Foreign reports also said that the United States strongly reacted to the Cambodian action. According to some reports yesterday, the United States said it would try to solve this problem through diplomatic means. If such a diplomatic approach failed, violent military action would be taken.

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This morning I learned that the United States had sent an estimated 1,100 U. S. Marines into U Taphao. Therefore, I summoned the U. S. Embassy minister to see me at this office at 1545 today and asked him about the truth of this development. He admitted that it was true. In that case, I had no choice but to hand him a protest note to be forwarded to his government. I have learned unofficially that after learning our wishes, they would transport these troops out of Thailand as soon as possible.

[Question] (??Have they informed us about this?)

[Answer] I learned it unofficially. I will not confirm it. It is not definite. I will wait and see tomorrow.

In the protest note, we call on the United States to withdraw these troops from Thailand as soon as possible. There is no definite schedule for that—just at the earliest. At least I will wait until tomorrow morning to see what the situation is. Immediately, not [word indistinct]. In English we use "immediately". "Immediate withdrawal" of these troops. U. S. troops can be sent to these bases only with our consent. I am the head of this government. When I said that I did not approve of it, I didn't have to ask anyone else. We have already stated in the protest note that these troops must be withdrawn immediately, and that if no action is forthcoming our relations will be seriously affected.
Along with the release of the crew, Cambodia also released five Thai nationals detained in Cambodia, to the U.S. authorities. They are probably captured fishermen.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the U.S. charge d'affaires confirmed that U.S. Marines had been sent for operations on Tang Island, and that some of them are probably escorting aircraft carriers. The U.S. charge said that since the operation to rescue the Mayaguez and its crew has been completed, the United States is considering removing its Marines from Thailand at the earliest. It is understood that aircraft will soon be sent from Clark airbase in the Philippines to pick them up.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that aircraft from various airbases took part in the U.S. air operations, but a report from the Supreme Command says that it understood no aircraft from U Taphao took part in the bombing of Cambodian warships.

PRIME MINISTRY SPOKESMAN: NO 'DRASTIC' ACTION CONTEMPLATED

American warplanes, believed to be flying from Thai bases, have sunk three Cambodian gunboats in an apparent effort to stop the Khmer Rouge from moving captive crewmen from the captured U.S. container ship Mayaguez.

Word of the attack came only hours after the Thai Government sent a strongly-worded protest note to the United States threatening "drastic action" unless the 1,1000 Marines flown into U Taphao air base before dawn yesterday were withdrawn.

Prime Minister Khukrit Pranot described the arrival of the combat ready Marines as a clear violation of Thailand's sovereignty and gave the United States until this morning to move them.

He reiterated Thailand's determination not to become involved in any American operation to rescue the Mayaguez' 39 U.S. crewmen.

A spokesman for the prime minister's office, who telephoned the Bangkok POST to collect information on the latest incident, said he did not believe the government would act drastically because the American planes were acting in self-defence.

But he added: "If the Marines do anything, that might be different."

OFFICIAL REPORTS MARINES HAVE LEFT, U TAPHAO PLANES NOT USED

Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Prida Phatthanathabut told reporters that Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pranot left Bangkok this morning for Nakhon Sawan Province to chair a meeting of provincial governors. The prime minister will instruct the governors on the government's policy to help farmers solve their land problem. The prime minister will also meet with farmers and listen to their grievances and problems. The observation will be used to further government measures to aid farmers. The prime minister will return this evening.
Concerning the U.S. dispatch of a number of Marines to U Taphao, the minister of the prime minister's office said he had been told that the troops left Thailand early this morning. They left by ship to board the Coral Sea, which is anchored in international waters off of Thailand. The minister said he had received identical reports to this effect from both the military and the Foreign Ministries.

About the report that a number of U.S. aircraft bombed and sank Cambodian naval vessels, the minister pointed out that the aircraft did not fly from bases in Thailand but reportedly flew from the U.S. 7th Fleet, which is not in Thailand.

DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST U.S. ENVOY'S ARRIVAL, MARCH ON EMBASSY

Hong Kong AFP in English 0605 GMT 15 May 75 BK

[Excerpts] Bangkok, May 15 (AFP)--Two dozen Thai student demonstrators marched on the U.S. Embassy here shortly before midday to demand the severance of diplomatic relations between Thailand and the U.S. Carrying posters and banners of "U.S. go home" and other strongly worded anti-American slogans, the students were later received by a U.S. Embassy spokesman.

The two dozen students who converged on the U.S. Embassy here late this morning left after they had handed a statement protesting the arrival of the estimated 1,100 U.S. Marines in Thailand to a U.S. Embassy official. The demonstration, staged by students of Bangkok's Ramkamhaeng University, lasted about half an hour.

PARTIES, ORGANIZATION DENOUNCE ENTRY OF U.S. MARINES

Socialist Party Demands Removal

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1310 GMT 14 May 75 BK

[Text] Deputy Under Secretary of the Socialist Party of Thailand [SPT] Mr. Virat Sakciraphaphong, discussing the landing of some 800 U.S. Marines at U Taphao at 0415 today, said that the SPT holds that this act constitutes a serious encroachment upon Thailand's sovereignty because the Thai prime minister had already stated that the government would not allow the United States to use Thai bases in any way to commit retaliatory acts against Cambodia. Therefore, the U.S. action is a slap in the face to the Thai people and is viewed as contempt of the prime minister, who is the representative of his majesty the king.

The SPT demands the United States for such an act and demands that it apologize to the Thai people and immediately take the aforementioned planes and Marines from Thailand. The deputy under secretary said even though the Thai and American peoples have maintained good relations for a long time, the Thai people cannot allow the United States to commit such an encroachment. He added that it is noteworthy that the U.S. claim that its ship was seized by the Cambodians in international waters is very amusing since Cambodia is a small country and has just revived from a civil war.
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[Text] Deputy Under Secretary of the Socialist Party of Thailand [SPT] Mr Wirat Sakotheepaphong, discussing the landing of some 300 U.S. Marines at U Taphao at 0915 today, said that the SPT holds that this act constitutes a serious encroachment upon Thailand's sovereignty because the Thai prime minister had already stated that the government would not allow the United States to use Thai bases in any way to commit retaliatory acts against Cambodia. Therefore, the U.S. action is a slap in the face to the Thai people and is viewed as contempt of the prime minister, who is the representative of his majesty the king.

The SPT condemns the United States for such an act and demands that it apologize to the Thai people and immediately take the aforementioned planes and Marines from Thailand. The deputy under secretary said even though the Thai and American peoples have maintained good relations for a long time, the Thai people cannot allow the United States to commit such an encroachment. He added that it is noteworthy that the U.S. claim that its ship was seized by the Cambodians in international waters is very amusing since Cambodia is a small country and has just revived from a civil war.
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The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the U.S. charge d'affaires confirmed that U.S. Marines had been sent for operations on Tang Island, and that some of them are probably (con) escorting aircraft carriers. The U.S. charge said that since the operation to rescue the Mayaguez and its crew has been completed, the United States is considering removing its Marines from Thailand at the earliest. It is understood that aircraft will soon be sent from Clark airbase in the Philippines to pick them up.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that aircraft from various airbases took part in the U.S. air operations, but a report from the Supreme Command says that it understood no aircraft from U Taphao took part in the bombing of Cambodian warships.

**PRIME MINISTRY SPOKESMAN: NO 'DRASTIC' ACTION CONTEMPLATED**

**Bangkok POST in English 15 May 75 p 1 BK**

[Excerpt] American warplanes, believed to be flying from Thai bases, have sunk three Cambodian gunboats in an apparent effort to stop the Khmer Rouge from moving captive crewmen from the captured U.S. container ship Mayaguez.

Word of the attack came only hours after the Thai Government sent a strongly-worded protest note to the United States threatening "drastic action" unless the 1,1000 Marines flown into U Taphao air base before dawn yesterday were withdrawn.

Prime Minister Khukrit Pramot described the arrival of the combat ready Marines as a clear violation of Thailand's sovereignty and gave the United States until this morning to move them.

He reiterated Thailand's determination not to become involved in any American operation to rescue the Mayaguez' 39 U.S. crewmen.

A spokesman for the prime minister's office, who telephoned the Bangkok POST to collect information on the latest incident, said he did not believe the government would act drastically because the American planes were acting in self-defence.

But he added: "If the Marines do anything, that might be different."

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**Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 15 May 75 BK**

[Text] Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Prida Phatthanathabut told reporters that Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot left Bangkok this morning for Nakhon Sawan Province to chair a meeting of provincial governors. The prime minister will instruct the governors on the government's policy to help farmers solve their land problem. The prime minister will also meet with farmers and listen to their grievances and problems. The observation will be used to further government measures to aid farmers. The prime minister will return this evening.
He said it reminds him of the Tonkin incident in 1964 when President Johnson asked Congress to allow him to use force against North Vietnam under the pretext that a U.S. warship was attacked by North Vietnamese warships. However, the classified Pentagon papers later exposed that this was a trick by President Johnson. He noted that the current incident may be a scheme by President Ford.

New Force Party Demands Sanctions

Bangkok PRACHATHIPATAI in Thai 15 May 75 p 1 BK

[Text] Bangkok, 11 May--Secretary General of the New Force Party Pramot Nakhonthap told PRACHATHIPATAI that the United States violated Thailand's independence and sovereignty when it sent 800 [as published] Marines to U Taphao. He said it would be futile for the United States to use this incident to precipitate a political change in Thailand. He also stated his party's demands on the government as follows:

1. Thailand must immediately recall the Thai ambassador in Washington as a protest gesture.

2. Thailand must withdraw its acceptance of the U.S. ambassador-designate and return him as well as the U.S. charge d'affaires.

3. The government must review and make public all of Thailand's agreements and treaties with the United States. All such agreements and treaties which threaten Thailand's independence and interests must be renounced.

4. The U.S. bases in Thailand must be closed immediately.

5. The United States must hand over U Taphao base to the Thai Government immediately.

Civil Liberty Group Protests

Bangkok POST in English 15 May 75 p 5 BK

[Text] The Union for Civil Liberties yesterday issued a strong statement against the American troop movement into U Taphao.

"The union firmly believes that this action, apart from being a retaliatory move on the part of the United States against the Cambodians, clearly shows that the U.S. Government wants to force the Thai Government to decide quickly on a foreign policy. Thailand is being forced to decide if it will support U.S. policy in Southeast Asia.

"This action by America clearly intends to pressurise the government and show disrespect to Thailand. We have already told the minister to the U.S. Embassy that the government will not allow the U.S. to fly aircraft or use other facilities at U Taphao or other bases here if it involves using force on the Cambodians.

"The union thinks that the government decision is a correct one. But our government has no bargaining power with the U.S. unless it shows itself to have the support of the Thai people."
"Now when our national sovereignty is at stake, the union believes that the Thai people should firmly back the government and protest the action of the United States loudly and in unison. In this way we would gain greater bargaining power over those who are so proud of their military might that they are blind to reason.

"We appeal to all Thais to do this in unity and firmness. At the same time the union asks that the government use this occasion of national unity to quickly release the Thai people from the U.S. domination. This must be done with absolute firmness, otherwise the U.S. will force us to meddle in the internal affairs of our neighbours. This would serve to start more fighting in this part of the world which is against the will of the American people."

PRESS CONDEMNS U.S. HANDLING OF INCIDENT, MARINES' PRESENCE

Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 May 75 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "A Big Slap on Our Face"]

[Text] The despatch of 1,100 Marines by planes to U Taphao is an audacious move by the United States and a downright insult to Thai sovereignty. Thailand cannot just take this sitting down. The demarche that has been made to the U.S. Embassy by the Thai Government is just not sufficient. A slap on the Thai face by the Americans just cannot be tolerated.

We call it audacious because Prime Minister Khukrit Pramot had on Tuesday told American Charge d'Affaires Edward Masters that the 1,000 Marines about to be flown to U Taphao was unacceptable. That it was carried out despite prior objections is an infringement of Thai sovereignty.

Apart from some calculated insult to Thai sovereignty, the incident has also its ridiculousness. Neither the President of the United States nor the Pentagon can use these Marines in Cambodian territory without the permission of the Congress and since the mood of the Congress is known to all, the politicians will debate it in full and in length and perhaps by that time there will be no use anyway what decisions they arrive at.

We can show some understanding to the Americans over the seizure of the freighter but why didn't the Americans show an understanding of the peculiar situation in Southeast Asia? The political map of this area has changed during the past one month and almost all countries of the world are trying to make readjustments with the new realities—particularly Thailand which has common border with the Indochinese countries.

It is in this critical period that the United States has sought to compromise Thailand in the eyes of its Indochinese neighbours. This just cannot be tolerated, however friendly we have been with the United States during the past 30 years.

The least we could do to save our face after this incident is to prevent the new American ambassador-designate, Charles Whitehouse, from presenting his credentials. We have nothing personal against him, but the timing of his arrival is wrong and that should be made plain to Washington.
"Now when our national sovereignty is at stake, the union believes that the Thai people should firmly back the government and protest the action of the United States loudly and in unison. In this way we would gain greater bargaining power over those who are so proud of their military might that they are blind to reason.

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[Text] The Union for Civil Liberties yesterday issued a strong statement against the American troop movement into U Taphao.

"The union firmly believes that this action, apart from being a retaliatory move on the part of the United States against the Cambodians, clearly shows that the U.S. Government wants to force the Thai Government to decide quickly on a foreign policy. Thailand is being forced to decide if it will support U.S. policy in Southeast Asia.

"This action by America clearly intends to pressurise the government and show disrespect to Thailand. We have already told the minister to the U.S. Embassy that the government will not allow the U.S. to fly aircraft or use other facilities at U Taphao or other bases here if it involves using force on the Cambodians.

"The union thinks that the government decision is a correct one. But our government has no bargaining power with the U.S. unless it shows itself to have the support of the Thai people."
Another thing we should do immediately is to recall Thai Ambassador Anan Panyarachun in Washington to Bangkok and hold consultations with him. This dual move is essential in order to re-establish our credibility in this region.

It is quite possible that under some agreement or other, the United States might claim that it had the right to bring Marines to Thailand. This is one of those twilight areas which the Khukrit government should clarify to the people. Everybody knows, of course, that there is the Thanat-Rusk declaration and the SEATO agreements.

But it is common belief that Americans cannot bring troops to Thai soil without the previous agreement of the Thai Government or its request to do so. But the previous military regimes had not squared with the people and it is the duty of the Khukrit government to reveal what are all the signed agreements that exist between Thailand and the United States. In order to improve its credibility, our own government must make a clean breast of what 'rights' the Americans have in Thailand if they have any.

A critical situation has arisen and the Asian countries are watching—whether we will be weak-kneed or whether we will sternly assert our sovereignty will have much say in the future of our country.

'Marines Must Leave Now'

Bangkok POST in English 15 May 75 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Marines Must Leave— Now!"

[Text] "Send in the Marines" or "send in the gunboats" used to be effective at one time, in Lebanon, the Dominican Republic and other places. But a new situation prevails in the world today. The despatch by the United States of the aircraft carrier Coral Sea and other naval vessels to the Gulf of Thailand and of 1,000 Marines to the U Taphao base over the Cambodian seizure of an unarmed American merchant ship is ill-advised, to say the least. President Ford has called the seizure of the "Mayaguez" an "act of piracy" but it is a matter between the United States and Cambodia.

Our prime minister Khukrit Pramoj has informed the U.S. charge d'affaires that Thailand will not get involved in any such dispute. Yet, the Marines have been sent to Thailand. This places our country in an embarrassing position since our government is trying to reach rapprochement with the new rulers of Cambodia and also of South Vietnam as well as with the Hanoi Government. Thailand does not want to be dragged into any confrontation with Phnom Penh, which would also lead to confrontation with Ho Chi Minh city and Hanoi.

The whole trouble is that when the Americans have accomplished their purpose with regard to the Mayaguez they will depart—the way they have departed from Cambodia and South Vietnam—and leave the local people to their fate. The United States have had a history of not going to war for any friend or ally unless they really feel that their own vital interests are directly threatened. They refused to move in and help the allies in World War I until a German U-boat torpedosed the "Lusitania" and caused the deaths of many Americans. They kept out of World War II until the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbour. They began to send in combat troops into Vietnam only after the Gulf of Tonkin incident in which North Vietnamese gunboats fired at two American vessels.
The United States Congress which voted against aid for American allies in Vietnam and caused them to be deserted, to the great consternation of the people of Thailand, must realise now that they do not have any close allies left in Southeast Asia. Thailand is turning away from reliance on American commitments towards a more balanced relationship with all the superpowers but it is gradually disentangling its military ties with the U.S., placing a one-year deadline for withdrawal of all American forces. This demonstrates that Thailand does not want to sever the kind of friendship that has been developed over the years with the American people, although we desire to rely more and more upon ourselves.

This latest move by the Americans, however, may well jeopardise this rational readjustment of relations between our two countries. Since the movement of the Marines into Thailand without the prior knowledge or consent of our government could be interpreted as a "breach of sovereignty," our prime minister is understandably upset and will make the strongest possible protest. He has even threatened the severance of relations with the U.S., though this may have been said more in anger than in intention. However, the U.S. has to wake up to the fact that it is no longer the world's dominant power and that its Marines and naval vessels cannot today command the respect they used to. Besides, what can 1,000 Marines do--except, by being here, cause trouble for our country?

The coming of the U.S. Marines to Sattahip can be considered a "provocative" act on the part of Thailand against Cambodia, and this is what we want to avoid. Because we have adopted a policy of promoting close friendship and cooperation with all our neighbours irrespective of ideology, any action which could be construed by any of our neighbours as an act of connivance with a big power against them will adversely affect our credibility over this policy. The Americans must not use Thai territory for any activity against any of our neighbours. The presence of the Marines will also cause deterioration of relations between Thai and American people.

The Marines must leave Thailand--now!

'Downright Insult to Thailand'

Bangkok WORLD in English 15 May 75 p 4 BK

[Editorial: "America's Downright Insult to Thailand"]

[Text] So America is back fighting again in Indochina. It is a relatively small military engagement but the consequences will be colossal.

And we in Thailand are right in the middle of it. The Americans get back their crew and depart. Thailand cannot. If the Cambodians decide to retaliate, what can they do? They cannot attack America, so the natural target must be Thailand, right next door. And especially since the troops and planes involved in the Mayaguez incident have come from Thai soil.

The whole tragedy of it is that this impasse was unnecessary. The Americans have shown no diplomacy, no strategic common sense and absolutely no style.
The United States Congress which voted against aid for American allies in Vietnam and caused them to be deserted, to the great consternation of the people of Thailand, must realize now that they do not have any close allies left in Southeast Asia. Thailand is turning away from reliance on American commitments towards a more balanced relationship with all the superpowers but it is gradually disentangling its military ties with the U.S., placing a one-year deadline for withdrawal of all American forces. This demonstrates that Thailand does not want to sever the kind of friendship that has been developed over the years with the American people, although we desire to rely more and more upon ourselves.

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[Text] "Send in the Marines" or "send in the gunboats" used to be effective at one time, in Lebanon, the Dominican Republic and other places. But a new situation prevails in the world today. The despatch by the United States of the aircraft carrier Coral Sea and other naval vessels to the Gulf of Thailand and of 1,000 Marines to the U Taphao base over the Cambodian seizure of an unarmed American merchant ship is ill-advised, to say the least. President Ford has called the seizure of the "Mayaguez" an "act of piracy" but it is a matter between the United States and Cambodia.

Our prime minister Khukrit Pramot has informed the U.S. charge d'affaires that Thailand will not get involved in any such dispute. Yet, the Marines have been sent to Thailand. This places our country in an embarrassing position since our government is trying to reach rapprochement with the new rulers of Cambodia and also of South Vietnam as well as with the Hanoi Government. Thailand does not want to be dragged into any confrontation with Phnom Penh, which would also lead to confrontation with Ho Chi Minh city and Hanoi.

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With Southeast Asia in such a delicate state, why did the United States not keep at least one aircraft carrier in these waters? Instead, the nearest was steaming off to Australian for some ceremonial celebrations. Result: Marines have to be flown into our country to form an assault force which is now fighting on the Island of Koh Tang.

Apparently the Marines are already out of Thailand. But the damage has been done. Relations with the Khmer Rouge must have been severely dented, to say nothing of our other neighbours in Indochina.

The handling of this episode is a downright insult to the Thai Government and people. But when you look at the United States' track record on Indochina, perhaps it is in keeping with what has gone before. The wounds to Thai-American friendship will not be easily healed.

Recall Ambassador, Reject U.S. Envoy

Bangkok PRACHACHAT in Thai 15 May 75 p 1 BK

["Page 1 comment"]

[Text] The United States delivered a big slap at all Thais by sending its Marines to U Tapao base without prior consultation, considering that the move had already been prohibited by the Thai Government beforehand. This is a violation of Thailand's sovereignty.

Even though the prime minister's office has already issued a communique demanding that the United States immediately withdraw those troops, we still feel this was not a strong enough reaction to such a debased U.S. violation of Thailand's sovereignty.

We therefore propose that the government take the following stern measures against the United States:

A. Since this U.S. move was not in keeping with the concept of relations between friendly countries, we therefore propose that:

1. The government immediately recall the Thai ambassador to the United States,

2. Reject the new U.S. ambassador who had just arrived by refusing to accept his credentials.

B. In connection with the arrogant statement made by the press officer of the U.S. Embassy in Thailand, that the United States would not tell the Thai Government and public anything until after certain events had occurred, we ask that:

1. The Thai Government make public all agreements it has with the United States remaining in effect as of this date,

2. The government take this opportunity to make the United States immediately withdraw all its bases from Thailand.

If this government fails to take stern actions to counteract the U.S. violation of Thailand's sovereignty, we then make a final proposal that the government resign.
THAILAND SENDS ITS MARINES TO CAMBODIAN BORDER 14 MAY

Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 May 75 p 1 BK

[Text] Thailand yesterday sent three battalions of marines from Sattahip and Chanthaburi to the Cambodian border in Hat Lek subdistrict, Trat Province, "to protect the lives and properties of Thais against the Khmer Rouge claim to push the demarcation point by one kilometre into Thai territory."

Commander-in-chief of the Royal Thai Navy Admiral Sa-ngat Chaloyu said last night that drastic measures will be used, including artillery, if the Khmer Rouge violate the border.

He said the navy sought permission from Supreme Command headquarters to send in marines after it decided that the Khmer Rouge claim should be taken seriously.

Admiral Sa-ngat said it is possible that Cambodia wanted to move the demarcation point to become a sole owner of the peninsula and control the continental shelf.

DAO DARA SIAM URGES SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN DEFENSE PRODUCTION

Bangkok DAO DARA SIAM in Thai 5 May 75 p 3 BK

[Editorial: "Military Defense System"]

[Excerpts] Looking at various confusing sessions of the House, it appears that only the Socialist, United Socialist Front and New Force parties have consistently pressed for the immediate expulsion of U.S. troops (without mentioning the 93d Division and the Vietnamese) no matter what the consequences for Thailand. The opposition parties--Democrats and Social Agrarians--do not seem to be worried about this.

If we had to fight now we would need powerful land, sea and air transport means—not the elephants, horses and cattle we once used. We would need various types and sizes of guns instead of knives, lances and arrows. The most important commodities would be oil and ammunition. But with our present supply, our army would be paralyzed after 2 weeks of fighting because we do not have our own oil sources nor sufficient ammunition. So we still require logistic support from friendly countries to help us protect ourselves.

If we had our own refineries and ammunition factories along with other materiel, including vehicles, warships and aircraft, then we could confidently concentrate on development in other fields because the enemy would not dare disturb us. But if we have to fight alone while trying to develop in other fields apart from defense production, we would be inviting control from abroad. And there are some arrogant elements within our society who would love these foreigners more than their own parents.
FOREIGN MINISTRY: U.S. MARINES LEFT NIGHT OF 15 MAY

Hong Kong APP in English 0413 GMT 16 May 75 BK

[Text] Bangkok, May 16 (APP)—The large force of American Marines flown into the U.S. base at U Taphao, in Thailand, during this week's crisis over the seized American Cargo ship "Mayaguez" left the country late last night, the Thai Foreign Ministry announced this morning.

The ministry said it had been told of their departure by the U.S. charge d'affaires here, Edward Masters.

KHUKRIT COMMENTS ON MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT, U.S.-THAI RELATIONS

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1328 GMT 15 May 75 BK

[Text] Reports this morning say that the Khmer Rouge had already released the U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez together with 39 crew members and five Thai citizens. In connection with the dispute between the United States and the Khmer Rouge, Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot expressed the following views: [recorded]

[Question] After the problem has been settled by our government, do you think we will review our foreign policy, particularly our relations with the United States?

[Answer] You already know that. Of course, it will be certainly reviewed. I already stated in the protest that it would affect our good relations. If the troops were not immediately withdrawn, good relations and understanding between Thailand and the United States would be seriously affected. We have already issued a statement to that effect. Of course, anything which is affected must be reviewed.

[Question] Will you invite the minister to the U.S. Embassy to meet you?

[Answer] I have not invited him.

[Question] Will you recall that the Thai ambassador [words indistinct]?

[Answer] If we do that, it would be one measure. I do not want to disclose anything or talk about it now.

[Question] There is a problem now that not all Marines have been withdrawn as you requested. You have received reports that they have not been all withdrawn. However, if they have already been withdrawn, will we make a review of our policy since while they were here they took off from a Thai base and bombed and sank some Cambodian ships early this morning? Will you make a review and do you think that they defied our policy?

[Answer] That is right. That is why I have to wait for all the details. I will then talk with the minister before a final action will be taken. Detailed reports are very confusing since they are from various sources. We will have to examine the details of what they have done.

[Question] On almost every street, posters declare support for the government's protest.
We have already protested. We will take other measures. Of course, after the protest, such measures will be taken. We cannot keep quiet. It concerns the honor of the country, which must be guarded by the government. I can only say that I will have to protect the honor of Thailand to the best of my ability. Thailand has always been an independent country. One cannot forget our history, one must not forget it.

[Question] Do you think the U.S. act--in defiance of the government's protest--can be construed as a (test) by Washington of the government's policy on the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Thailand?

[Answer] I have not thought that far. However, everything has already been scheduled and the withdrawal of the U.S. troops, as we have already stated, must be completed within 12 months. In fact, withdrawal has already begun from (U Taphao). All things considered, I am of the view that the act is unfriendly.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, if the United States refers to the 1967 statement which says that they have the right to bring in troops provided they inform . . .

[Answer] This is no . . . On the day I summoned the U.S. Embassy minister to tell him that we did not want to get involved, he also admitted that, in his opinion, U Taphao base was on Thai soil and belonged to Thailand. In that case, there is no problem. Therefore, what has been done is construed as an unfriendly act. As for the encroachment on the sovereignty of Thailand, I also have a report that the Thai ambassador in Washington has also stated this. Is that right? The Thai ambassador in Washington has already said that.

[Question] In the cabinet meeting tomorrow, do you think the proposal of the Foreign Ministry, which you already know, will be (discussed)?

[Answer] I think that it depends on what I, as head of the government, and the foreign minister will discuss. However, we must propose it to the cabinet since we are responsible to each other. Other ministers may express a number of views, but I don't think they will be different. This is a matter of the honor of the country, and there will be no different views.

KHUKRIT CONDONES STUDENT ANTI-U.S. DEMONSTRATIONS

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1319 GMT 15 May 75 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Khukrit Pramoj, speaking to reporters in Nakhon Sawan this morning, expressed the belief that all U.S. Marines would have been withdrawn from U Taphao by noon today. The prime minister said: [recorded]

[Question] Some reports said that a number of them have been withdrawn to a carrier in the Gulf of Thailand.

[Answer] I understand that by noon today all of them will have been withdrawn.

[Question] Have you met with Mr Whitehouse?

[Answer] Whitehouse? Why do I have to see him?
IV. 16 May 75

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[Question] On almost every street, posters declare support for the government's protest.
[Question] [sentence indistinct]

[Answer] He knows nothing. He just arrived yesterday and has not yet made any contact and has not yet presented his credentials. Nothing has been done. They have the embassy minister whom we can contact.

[Question] Do you think your drastic action will affect our relations with the United States?

[Answer] If they comply with our demand, they should not be affected. If they don't, they will be seriously affected, as I said earlier.

[Question] [Words indistinct] relations with that country?

[Answer] What can we do? It is such a serious conflict. A divorce of a husband and wife is not as serious as this.

[Question] Have you received any reports that the students will demonstrate today?

[Answer] It is their concern. The right to protest belongs to all people under the democratic system. The government has already protested. It is even better if the students also protest. If we help each other in the protest, they might become afraid.

POST CITES ALTERNATIVES IN WAKE OF U.S. DEFYANCE

Bangkok POST in English 16 May 75 pp 1, 3 BK

[Text] Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot is summoning a special cabinet session today to decide whether to recall the ambassador to the United States as a strong protest against the U.S. for using Thai bases to launch yesterday's attack on a Cambodian island in defiance of Thailand's non-interference policy.

The recommendation to recall Ambassador Anan Panyarachun, automatically downgrading diplomatic links between the two countries, was made by the Foreign Ministry, which was reported to be "furious" over the American defiance of repeated Thai requests.

M.R. Khukrit earlier handed a note to U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires Edward Masters giving U.S. authorities until Thursday morning to pull out all the 1,100 Marines flown into U Taphao.

Foreign Ministry sources said they failed to meet the ultimatum and there were still about 800 Marines left at U Taphao yesterday afternoon.

Despite official Foreign Ministry statements in the morning that the jet fighters involved in the rescue operations of the Mayaguez were flown from the U.S. 7th Fleet, informed sources told the Bangkok POST that some of the AC-130 gunships involved in the rescue operations were actually flown from their home base at Korat.

M.R. Khukrit arrived in Bangkok from Nakhon Sawan yesterday evening and told newsmen that reports he received in Nakhon Sawan in the afternoon said there were "still some Marines at U Taphao."

M.R. Khukrit said that he has a "possible course of action in mind" but wished to consult with his cabinet today.
Sources said the premier is expected to talk to Foreign Minister Chatthai Chunhawan, scheduled to return at 3 p.m. this afternoon, about diplomatic consequences "if the Thai ambassador to Washington is to be recalled."

Prime Minister Khukrit indicated that the government will take very "necessary action" if it is confirmed that the U.S. Marines involved in the assault on Koh Tang operated from Thai bases and that some Marines did not leave Thai soil after a pledge from the American Embassy here that they would be withdrawn immediately.

The prime minister said that the American action to free the Mayaguez was in defiance of Thailand's policy of non-interference in other countries' affairs "to the extent that we could no longer be friends."

But he noted that the act of defiance was not sufficient to sever relations between the two countries.

He further said: "We are a free country and have kept our sovereignty throughout our history. Anyone who forgets our history is going to be reminded of it."

Sources said yesterday morning that the Foreign Affairs Ministry contacted the U.S. Embassy inquiring whether the remaining U.S. Marines could be withdrawn within 24 hours. Embassy Minister Edward Masters was reported to have told the ministry officials that the U.S. would try to pull out the Marines as quickly as possible but he could give no guarantee that they would all be out within 24 hours.

Apart from recalling the Thai envoy to the U.S. the Foreign Ministry is also proposing that the Thai Government distribute circular letters to all embassies in Bangkok clarifying Thailand's attitude against the U.S. over the Mayaguez affairs.

The third option being recommended by the ministry is for the total withdrawal of American troops from Thai soil immediately.

KHUKRIT PLANS 16 MAY CABINET MEETING ON MARINE ISSUE

[Text] At about 0900 today M.R. Khukrit Premot told reporters at Government House that he had the impression that not all U.S. Marines have been pulled out of Thailand. The prime minister said the United States did not withdraw the Marines immediately, as demanded in Thailand's protest note. He said he would immediately discuss the matter with Foreign Minister Maj Gen Chatthai Chunhawan when he returns to Thailand this afternoon. A cabinet meeting will be called to formulate measures to counter the U.S. act.

Prime Minister's Office Minister Prada Phatharanathabut stated later that U.S. Charge d'Affaires Edward Masters had reported to the Foreign Ministry that the United States had withdrawn all its Marines from U Taphao as of 2335 yesterday.

OFFICIAL WANTS U.S. STATEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL OF MARINES

[Text] The chief of the Press Division of the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry, Mr Phiset Itsarasena, told reporters this morning that the U.S. Embassy must make a formal statement concerning the withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Thailand, instead of simply making gossip or informal information. It is not correct to have the Thai government issue a statement on behalf of the United States.
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The third option being recommended by the ministry is for the total withdrawal of American troops from Thai soil immediately.

**KHUNRIT PLANS 16 MAY CABINET MEETING ON MARINE ISSUE**

[Text] At about 0900 today M.R. Khukrit Pramot told reporters at Government House that he had the impression that not all U.S. Marines have been pulled out of Thailand. The prime minister said the United States did not withdraw the Marines immediately, as demanded in Thailand's protest note. He said he would immediately discuss the matter with Foreign Minister Maj Gen Chatchai Chunhawan when he returns to Thailand this afternoon. A cabinet meeting will be called to formulate measures to counter the U.S. act.

Prime Minister's Office Minister Prida Phatthanathabut stated later that U.S. Charge d'Affaires Edward Masters had reported to the Foreign Ministry that the United States had withdrawn all its Marines from U Taphao as of 2335 yesterday.

**OFFICIAL WANTS U.S. STATEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL OF MARINES**

[Text] The chief of the Press Division of the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry, Mr Phirat Itsarasena, told reporters this morning that the U.S. Embassy must make a formal statement concerning the withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Thailand, instead of simply making gossip or informal information. It is not correct to have the Thai Government issue a statement on behalf of the United States.
[Question] [sentence indistinct]

[Answer] He knows nothing. He just arrived yesterday and has not yet made any contact and has not yet presented his credentials. Nothing has been done. They have the embassy minister whom we can contact.

[Question] Do you think your drastic action will affect our relations with the United States?

[Answer] If they comply with our demand, they should not be affected. If they don't, they will be seriously affected, as I said earlier.

[Question] [Words indistinct] relations with that country?

[Answer] What can we do? It is such a serious conflict. A divorce of a husband and wife is not as serious as this.

[Question] Have you received any reports that the students will demonstrate today?

[Answer] It is their concern. The right to protest belongs to all people under the democratic system. The government has already protested. It is even better if the students also protest. If we help each other in the protest, they might become afraid.

POST CITES ALTERNATIVES IN WAKE OF U.S. DEFIANCE

Bangkok POST in English 16 May 75 pp 1, 3 BK

[Text] Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot is summoning a special cabinet session today to decide whether to recall the ambassador to the United States as a strong protest against the U.S. for using Thai bases to launch yesterday's attack on a Cambodian island in defiance of Thailand's non-interference policy.

The recommendation to recall Ambassador Anan Panyarat, automatically downgrading diplomatic links between the two countries, was made by the Foreign Ministry which was reported to be "furious" over the American defiance of repeated Thai requests.

M.R. Khukrit earlier handed a note to U.S. Embassy Charge d’Affaires Edward Masters giving U.S. authorities until Thursday morning to pull out all the 1,100 Marines flown into U Taphao.

Foreign Ministry sources said they failed to meet the ultimatum and there were still about 800 Marines left at U Taphao yesterday afternoon.

Despite official Foreign Ministry statements in the morning that the jet fighters involved in the rescue operations of the Mayaguez were flown from the U.S. 7th Fleet, informed sources told the Bangkok POST that some of the AC-130 gunships involved in the rescue operations were actually flown from their home base at Korat.

M.R. Khukrit arrived in Bangkok from Nakhon Sawan yesterday evening and told newsmen that reports he received in Nakhon Sawan in the afternoon said there were "still some Marines at U Taphao."

M.R. Khukrit said that he has a "possible course of action in mind" but wished to consult with his cabinet today.
Mr Phirat Itsarasena said Thailand must pressure the United States to issue a statement and that it should be issued before the arrival of the PRGSV delegation in Bangkok; otherwise, it will look like the United States is acting as a world power and making threats. Mr Phirat said the PRGSV delegation is scheduled to arrive at Bangkok airport today at 1740. Mr Phirat also announced that Foreign Minister Maj Gen Chatchai Chunsawan will return at 1350 today. The minister will be told to do everything possible to pressure the United States into issuing a statement.

The chief of the Press Division said that although all the marines have been withdrawn, what the United States has done—brining in the Marines without prior consultation with Thailand—cannot be forgiven. The United States is still responsible because it brought in the Marines and withdrew them only when their mission was completed.

It is not enough for the Thai Government to just recall the Thai ambassador to Washington. The government should have other measures of protest. The chief of the Press Division said the government should follow the advice of M.R. Seni Premot. This is the best measure and we have already resorted to it once with a neighboring country.

GROUPS PROTEST DISPATCH OF U.S. MARINES INTO COUNTRY

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 15 May 75 BK

[Text] At 1100 today, a group of 25 students of "Stachatham" [Truth] Party of Ramkhamhaeng University held a rally in front of the U.S. Embassy where they set up posters denouncing the dispatch of U.S. Marines into Thailand. During the rally, the students asked to meet Mr Charles Whitehouse, new U.S. ambassador to Thailand, in order to submit their demands. However, the ambassador refused to meet them. The students then submitted their demands to the U.S. political affairs counselor.

At about 1600, a group from the "New Force" Party also held a protest in front of the U.S. Embassy. In addition, the party sent a message to President Ford and personages of the U.S. Senate as well as to several papers—including the New York TIMES, Washington POST and Chicago TRIBUNE—denouncing this act. In the message the new force party representatives said: The United States must not take advantage of the situation to collude with a certain group to usurp power and sabotage the democratic administrative system. The U.S. troops must be withdrawn from all their bases in Thailand. The United States must immediately hand over control of the U Taphao military base to Thailand. The U.S. Government must not distort the facts or fool Congress and the American people as it did regarding the Gulf of Tonkin incident. The United States is requested to withdraw the new ambassador from Thailand because the new ambassador is not a right man for this job and, in addition, he has been appointed ambassador to Thailand under unclear circumstances. The New Force Party resolutely affirms to fight against any outside aggression or intervention.

Meanwhile, the United Socialist Front Party of Thailand issued a statement supporting the government for its bold act of demanding that the United States withdraw its Marines from Thailand. The party also requested that the Thai Government use even more effective measures to compel the United States to withdraw all its forces from Thailand without waiting for the 1 year condition.
It was also observed that thousands of students and people held a rally at the Phra Mai ground beginning at 1530 this afternoon during which speeches were made attacking the dispatch of U.S. Marines into Thailand.

**APP: DEMONSTRATORS BURN PRESIDENT FORD IN EFFIGY**

Hong Kong APP in English 1755 GMT 15 May 75 EK

[Text] Bangkok, May 15 (APP)—An effigy of U.S. President Ford was burned late Thursday night as student demonstrators demanded the "total and immediate" withdrawal of U.S. troops from Thai soil. The burning of the U.S. President’s effigy at mid city Sanam Luang Park marked the end of an anti-American demonstration which had begun around 1500 (local time) this afternoon. The demonstration gathered a 4,000 strong crowd and was marked by strong Hyde Park style anti-American speeches by student and left leaning activists.

The students announced before dispersing the crowd that they would call on Thai Premier Phumkrit Pramoj to demand the “total and immediate” withdrawal of U.S. troops from Thailand.

The demonstration was the third in a series of anti-American demonstrations which have been staged in Bangkok since the arrival of an estimated 1,100 U.S. marines at U Taphao (150 kilometres southeast of Bangkok) yesterday morning.

**DEPUTY PREMIER AGREES WITH PROTEST, DEMAND FOR U.S. APOLOGY**

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 16 May 75 EK

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Maj Gen Praman Adireksan has said that since the United States sent its Marines into Thailand without prior notification to the Thai Government, the latter should protest the matter immediately. He told reporters [recorded]:

**[Question]** You said, in the “Meet the World” Program, that the United States must notify Thailand every time its planes land or take off at U Taphao base, Did the United States notify Thailand before sending 1,100 Marines to Thailand?

**[Answer]** As the prime minister already said, the United States did not notify us although we had stated beforehand that we do not want the United States to use Thailand as a springboard for war against Cambodia or Indochina. Since the United States went right ahead with its own plans, Thailand naturally felt it had to protest and demand that the troops be withdrawn immediately. This the prime minister immediately did.

**[Question]** If the United States does not listen to us, what shall we do next?

**[Answer]** That would mean the United States has no respect for us whatsoever. It would also mean that the United States wants to violate our sovereignty. What will happen next, I don’t want to be overly pessimistic and make a guess. I cannot reveal everything in matters of international politics. The problems between Thailand and the United States have evolved during more than 10 years of relations, and during that time I have not been involved in administrative affairs; I have been in office for only 2 months now. One must be very careful in matters involving a drastic change.
It was also observed that thousands of students and people held a rally at the Phra Phai ground beginning at 1530 this afternoon during which speeches were made attacking the dispatch of U.S. Marines into Thailand.

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Mr Hirat Itsarasena said Thailand must pressure the United States to issue a statement and that it should be issued before the arrival of the FRGSCV delegation in Bangkok; otherwise, it will look like the United States is acting as a world power and making threats. Mr Hirat said the FRGSCV delegation is scheduled to arrive at Bangkok airport today at 1740. Mr Hirat also announced that Foreign Minister Maj Gen Chatchai Chunhavan will return at 1350 today. The minister will be told to do everything possible to pressure the United States into issuing a statement.

The chief of the Press Division said that although all the marines have been withdrawn, what the United States has done—bringing in the Marines without prior consultation with Thailand—cannot be forgiven. The United States is still responsible because it brought in the Marines and withdrew them only when their mission was completed.

It is not enough for the Thai Government to just recall the Thai ambassador to Washington. The government should have other measures of protest. The chief of the Press Division said the government should follow the advice of M.R. Seni Premot. This is the best measure and we have already resorted to it once with a neighboring country.

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[Question] The Socialist Party of Thailand issued a statement denouncing the U.S. move and demanding that the United States apologize to the Thai people. How do you feel about this?

[Answer] I agree with the statement issued by the Socialist Party.

SENI: TAKE MARINE ISSUE BEFORE UN OR WORLD COURT

Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 May 75 p 3 BK

[Text] Democrat and opposition party leader M.R. Seni Pramot yesterday suggested two solutions to the controversial issue of the entry of 1,100 U.S. Marines: Send a protest letter to the United Nations or present the case at the World Court.

He said the United States has not been granted the right to bring troops to this country without the government's permission.

"I consider it is appropriate what the government has done in sending the protest note to the U.S. Government," said M.R. Seni adding: "And in case our protest does not catch the attention of the other side we must take a further step send a protest letter to the UN or bring the matter to the World Court."

The arrival of the U.S. Marines is considered by Thai people an infringement of Thailand's sovereignty and a hindrance of the good relations Thailand is developing with her neighbouring countries, the opposition leader pointed out.

THAI RAT CITIES 1967 GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON U TAPHAO

Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 15 May 75 p 8 BK

[Excerpt] Mr Phirat Itsarasena, chief of the Press Section of the Foreign Ministry, disclosed the contents of the Thai Government's 22 March 1967 statement on its permission to allow the United States to use U Taphao base. The text of the statement reads:

Statement of the Thai Government on the use of military installations and facilities at U Taphao.

Today the Thai Government has decided to permit the U.S. military forces to use parts of the military installations at U Taphao in accordance with the request of the U.S. Government for the benefit of our mutual defense because the Thai Government intends to halt the flames of aggression, which have been created by the communists in South Vietnam, from spreading into other regions of the world.

This decision has been made by the Thai Government on the grounds that Thai Government intends to help and support those countries which have become the victims of aggression and to prevent the aggressors from occupying and achieving victories in those countries. This is being done to reduce the strength and capability of the aggressors so that they will be forced to halt their aggression. In addition, this measure will also boost the efficiency of the allied forces in retaliating against the enemy by planes without allowing the communists to know in advance. As a result, the war will come to an end more quickly, and peace will be restored to this region within the shortest period of time possible, thus helping to save countless lives and natural resources from destruction--resources which will be used in boosting production in the future.
There is an understanding that the decision to allow the United States to use the military installations and facilities at U Taphao will remain in effect as long as the Thai Government sees that the danger of communist aggression against the free world countries in Southeast Asia still prevails.

VOPT EDITORIAL DENOUNCES U.S. LANDING OF MARINES

Voice of the People of Thailand [Clandestine] in Thai to Thailand 1000 GMT 15 May 75 BK

[Editorial: "All Patriotic Thai People: "Unite and Fight Until American Piratic Troops Are Driven Out and American Bases Are Withdrawn From Our Fatherland"]

[Text] On 14 May U.S. imperialists airlifted over 1,000 Marines to U Taphao base in a bid to strengthen its control of Thailand and, as a threat to a newly liberated country, sent its aircraft from the bases in Thailand to bomb Cambodian warships which were patrolling inside Cambodian territorial waters safeguarding national independence and sovereignty.

The U.S. act is blatant aggression and the most arrogant and debased infringement upon Thailand's as well as Cambodia's independence and sovereignty. It was a most arrogant act in defiance of the people of Thailand, Cambodia and all justice-loving people in the world. No matter what the circumstance or pretext, the U.S. imperialists have no right whatsoever to station their troops or set up its bases in Thailand. In particular, it has no right to make use of Thailand as its base of aggression. The Thai people, who have authority over this territory, have the full right to expel all U.S. imperialist bases and troops from Thailand. The U.S. imperialists must immediately pull out the more than 1,000 Marines and aircraft brought into Thailand. They must also immediately and unconditionally withdraw all of their aggressive bases and forces.

The U.S. imperialists were daringly arrogant in dispatching their Marines to Thailand. They acted as if Thailand were a U.S. territory where it could send in troops at any time or in any number. This made it clear to what extent Thailand's independence and sovereignty have been trampled upon by U.S. imperialism. The U.S. imperialist act of aggression has exposed its aggressive nature which will remain unchanged. It also exposed that all promises made by the U.S. imperialists, in particular that it would withdraw its troops from Thailand, are only lies.

On 5 May the U.S. and Khukrit-Praman governments announced a withdrawal of 7,500 U.S. troops from Thailand to be made before the end of June. But only 10 days have gone by and the U.S. imperialists, who have not pulled out a single soldier, instead have poured in about 1,000 more troops. The introduction of these troops into Thailand was made at a time when people of all strata in Thailand were calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and bases in the wake of a total defeat of U.S. imperialism and its lackeys in Cambodia and South Vietnam and while U.S. imperialist lackeys in Laos are heading toward their doom. This made clear the U.S. intention of not leaving Indochina but its instead sending in more troops in a bid to strengthen its control of Thailand, to support its loyal henchmen and to intimidate and intensify suppression against the Thai people who are fighting for their national interests and democracy.
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