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# Ford Believes U.S. Won't Go Isolationist

Washington

President Ford said yesterday he has confidence that with the trauma of Vietnam behind them the American people will reject a new isolationism and exercise firm and consistent leadership in the world.

"We may be entering a new era, an era that will be very visible and very substantive in showing the United States' capability and will to not only do something in a short period of time but to stick with it," the President said.

He made his comment in the course of an hour-long interview he granted five European correspondents on the eve of his first trip as President to Europe. The program was televised by the British Broadcasting Corp. and was broadcast last night in the United States by Public Broadcasting Service.

The President said that his visit, which begins Wednesday, and his handling of the Mayaguez incident were evidences of America's determination to fulfill its commitments in the world.

The response to the Cambodian seizure of the Mayaguez "should be a firm assurance that the United States is capable and has the will to act in emergencies, in challenges," Mr. Ford said.

"I think this is a clear, clear indication that we are not only strong, but we have the will and the capability of moving."

While expressing general optimism about the future, the President said he is concerned about the Communist influence in Portugal and Portugal's relationship to NATO.

It was the strongest statement he has made to date on the Portuguese situation. He said he would "certainly bring up" the matter of Communist penetration of the Portuguese government when he attends a NATO summit meeting in Brussels Thursday and Friday.

The President said he did not see how "you can have a Communist element" playing a significant role in an organization such as NATO that was "formed for the purpose of meeting a chal-

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lenge by Communist elements from the east."

The President said he was encouraged by the "fine vote" of the Portuguese people last month in which the Communists won only about 12.5 per cent of the vote.

"But, unfortunately, that vote has not as of this time had any significant impact on those that control the government, but nevertheless we approve of the political philosophy of the people of Portugal."

"We are concerned with some of the elements of the government."

Rejecting a suggestion that the United States might use force in the event of another Arab oil embargo, Mr. Ford said the United States' emphasis will be on cooperation rather than confrontation in the Middle East.

He was asked to comment on a statement by Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger that this country would be less tolerant of another oil embargo and "conceivably" would respond with military measures.

"Since we do believe in cooperation, we don't consider military operations as a part of any policy planning that we have in mind," Mr. Ford said.

He promised to "lay out what we think is the best solution" to the Arab-Israeli conflict after his meeting with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Salzburg, Austria, June 1 and 2, and his meeting in Washington June 11 and 12 with Israeli Prime Minister Itzhak Rabin.

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