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Thai Prime Minister Rebukes Kissinger

Agence France-Presse

BANGKOK, May 29—A recent state attributed to U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on Thailand's protests over the Mayaguez affair drew a sharp Thai reaction today, further straining relations between the two countries.

Kissinger was reported by the Far Eastern Economic Review in its May 30 edition as having told reporters, when asked about Thailand's protests against U.S. violation of its sovereignty in using Utapoa air base to recover the Mayaguez, that they should not pay attention to Thai politicians, but rather to the Thai military.

The review further reported him as having said "privately" that the Thai military were happy enough for the United States to use Utapoa and that was what mattered.

Commenting on Kissinger's purported statement, Thai Prime Minister Kukrit Pramoj told reporters, "Don't pay any attention to an American politician."

"Mr. Kissinger's only interested in the affairs of his own native country and the affairs of the Middle East because he is a Jew," Kukrit said. "Mr. Kissinger has never paid any attention to the affairs of Southeast Asia."