

Third Incident in Asian Waters

Washington

The Cambodian seizure of the merchant ship *Mayaguez* in the Gulf of Thailand yesterday marks the third time since 1964 that an American President has faced a crisis set off by U.S. ships in military confrontation in Asian waters.

In neither the Gulf of Tonkin incident 11 years ago nor the 1968 seizure by North Korea of the Navy ship *Pueblo*, however, were commercial vessels involved.

On Jan. 23, 1968, North Korean patrol boats fired on the *Pueblo*, injuring 12 crew members. One later died.

Commander Lloyd Bucher surrendered his converted coastal freighter, which was taken to shore and still remains in the hands of the North Korean government.

The *Pueblo's* 82 crew members were held prisoner for 11 months before being released.

In the other incident, the

late President Johnson appealed for authority to use all necessary armed force in Vietnam after two U.S. destroyers allegedly did battle with North Vietnamese patrol boats in the Gulf of Tonkin on Aug. 2-3, 1964.

Mr. Johnson said that the two warships, the *Maddox* and the *Turner Joy*, were fired on in international waters by North Vietnamese gunboats.

Since then, questions have arisen about the role of the *Maddox* in an earlier South Vietnamese attack on a North Vietnamese island and whether the North Vietnamese really started the shooting.

Whether the U.S. warships were fired on without cause or not, the incident led to passage of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in Congress and the first of several big increases of U.S. involvement in the war.

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