

SFChronicle

MAY 15 1975

Ford Statement On the Rescue

Washington

The text of President Ford's statement early today on the rescue of crewmen of the S.S. Mayaguez:

"At my direction, United States forces tonight (Wednesday night) boarded the American merchant ship SS Mayaguez and landed at the island of Koh Tang for the purpose of rescuing the crew and ship which had been illegally seized by Cambodian forces. They also conducted supporting strikes against nearby military installations.

"I have now received information that the vessel has been recovered intact and that the entire crew has been rescued.

"The forces that have successfully accomplished this mission are still under hostile fire but are preparing to disengage.

"I wish to express my appreciation and that of the entire nation to the units and men who participated in these operations for their valor and sacrifice."

Associated Press