

## 2d Ship Following Mayaguez

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The owner of the Mayaguez has sent its sister ship, the Ponce, to follow the same course that the Mayaguez took on its way to being captured by Cambodians.

The Ponce left Hong Kong Wednesday for Sattahip, Thailand, with a load of containers, intending to sail the same route that Sea-Land Service, Inc., has sailed since 1972, company officials said. It is scheduled to dock in Sattahip Monday.

The Mayaguez, meanwhile, has been diverted from its intended first destination, Sattahip, to its second stop, Singapore.

Officials of Sea-Land in Menlo Park, N.J., explained that the switch was made to facilitate the removal by air of those crewmen who want to come home now and to fly in replacements.

The officials said the nearest airport to Sattahip is 120 miles away.

The Mayaguez containers, company officials said, are intact, as is the ship, which is heading toward Singapore without a military escort. It is due to arrive at 3 a.m. (EDT) Saturday.

The company has been able to communicate with the ship and its captain, Charles T. Miller of Fountain Valley, Calif., only by wireless.

Sea-Land's first message from the crew arrived at 10 a.m. yesterday Washington time, when Miller reported that he was at 10.47 north latitude and 102.7 east longitude, saying that he was under way to Singapore with

"crew alive and well."

An hour later, after Sea-Land had telegraphed for a status of how the men were, the captain replied, "All crew healthy but had a rough time."

Miller also sent a wire to the White House, saying, "Dear Mr. President: The captain and officers and crew of the SS Mayaguez thank you and all the brave military forces who are fighting and dying to save our lives."

Later in the day, however, when it was night in the Far East, Miller refused radio communications, including a call from the South China Morning Post newspaper via Hong Kong Radio.

At a news conference in Menlo Park, Michael McEvoy, board chairman of Sea-Land, emphatically denied Cambodian charges that his ship was on a spy mission.

"The world will see this ship," he said, "its cargo and its men."

He said the ship was carrying 274 containers, insured for about \$5 million.

Of those, he said, 90 were empty, 107 contained commercial freight bound for Singapore, and 77 contained "military supplies."

McEvoy said the 77 military containers, actually 35 to 40-foot vans, include two of mail, three of footstuffs, including refrigerated meat, eight of commissar supplies, such as soap and shaving cream, 26 of parts and replacement equipment and 38 of PX items such as soft drinks, beer and liquor.

All was for the American military installation in Sattahip.

McEvoy said Sea-Land had been carrying such military supplies for years, and was "the largest carrier of military supplies into Southeast Asia." During the Vietnam war, he said, the company did \$25 million worth of business a year with the American government.

A Sea-Land spokesman said that if the Ponce appears to be heading into danger as it nears Cambodia, the company will have time to order a re-routing later on in the week.