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Thais Accuse U.S. of Breach of Faith

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BANGKOK, Thailand, May 15

— A Government spokesman told newsmen today that the United States was guilty of a "breach of faith" in using Thai bases in its recovery of the American merchant ship that Cambodian gunboats had seized.

While the spokesman echoed protests made yesterday in a note to the United States and in remarks to newsmen by Premier Kukrit Pramoj, official Thai anger appeared softened somewhat with the departure of most of the United States marines who had suddenly been flown in.

The arrival yesterday of 1,100 marines at U Taphao air base was followed by Thai Government demands that they be removed by this morning. The Premier said that there would be "drastic action" if the demands were not met, but he did not elaborate.

Policy of Neutrality

Most of the marines were flown out early today, and a Thai Government spokesman said he had been informed that "several hundred" were still here but would be removed as soon as transport planes could be brought in from the Philippines.

Thailand, which during the Indochina conflict had been a staunch ally of the United States, is now committed to an announced foreign policy of neutrality and friendly relations with all nations.

"We could work out our foreign policy clearly if only we knew two things," a senior official said privately. "The first is Hanoi's intentions toward

us. The second is America's capability and desire to remain a force in the area."

In publicity expressing anger over the airlift of United States marines to Thailand yesterday, Thai officials said that they had not received any advance notice of such action. [In Washington, American officials, asked for comment, would not confirm that there had been no notification.]

Warns of Consequences

The Thai protest note yesterday said that the Premier had informed the American chargé d'affaires on Tuesday, the day after the American ship was captured, that "Thailand did not wish to become involved in the dispute between the United States and Cambodia over the seizure of the vessel Mayagüez and that Thailand will not permit her territory to be used in connection with any action that might be taken by the United States against Cambodia."

The note said the Thai Government had learned yesterday "that the United States Government had sent some elements of its Marine forces into Thailand as part of its reaction against Cambodia." It warned

that unless the forces were withdrawn at once, "the good relations and cooperation existing between Thailand and the United States would be exposed to serious and damaging consequences."

Thailand's statements appeared to reflect a fear that the American marines might expose the country to Communist hostility.

Thai officials in conversations also appeared to indicate anxiety about several days of talks with a three-member North Vietnamese delegation due here tomorrow. While the visit was planned some time ago, the Mayagüez incident seems certain to be discussed.

Also expected to be discussed is the disposition of the remaining military planes flown here by pilots of the former South Vietnamese air force as the war ended. Many of the 125 planes that arrived have been removed by the United States, which maintains that they could be reclaimed because they had been provided to Saigon under American military-aid agreements.

The presence of many Vietnamese refugee families in Thailand is also expected to be taken up.



United Press International

Demonstrators in Bangkok burning an effigy of President Ford in a protest against use of marines from Thai bases.