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# Cambodia Got 'Extra' Bombing

Washington

The Pentagon said yesterday that U.S. planes bombed targets on the Cambodian mainland hours after the Mayaguez crew was released by the Cambodians, who apparently freed them in an attempt to ward off just such bombing.

News that the air attacks had been more extensive than had been previously reported was given by Pentagon spokesman John Laitin in response to a question by a reporter at a briefing for newsmen.

According to information now reaching Washington from U.S. Navy ships in the Gulf of Siam, where the action took place, the captain of the Mayaguez succeeded in convincing the Cambodians that if they let him and his crew go, the merchantmen could get the U.S. military to stop bombing and strafing Cambodian gunboats in the waters near where his ship was held captive.

The Mayaguez crew, captured Monday by Cambodian gunboats, was being held prisoner on a small island named Rong near the mainland port of Kompong Som.

It was 30 miles back to Koh Tang island, near where the Mayaguez was at anchor and where U.S. forces were getting ready to land.

According to messages reaching the Pentagon, the crew set sail in a small Thai fishing boat at about 8:20 a.m. Wednesday, Cambodian time. 14 MAY

The United States, Pentagon officials say, did not know the men were released until between 10:45 a.m., when the U.S. destroyer Wilson spotted their boat, and 11:13 when the crew boarded the Wilson.

By 10:57 a.m. Navy jets

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## 'EXTRA' BOMBING

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from the carrier Coral Sea had already started bombing the airfield at Ream on the mainland.

At 11:50 a.m., spokesman Laitin said yesterday, a second wave of Navy jets hit fuel dumps, barracks and warehouses on the mainland around Kompong Som. That raid was 37 minutes after the United States knew all the Mayaguez crew was back safely.

Laitin said the second raid was not called off because there were still 200 Marines left on Koh Tang island — 34 miles off the coast — under fire and awaiting helicopters to take them out.

Laitin said the additional attacks on the mainland were needed to insure that Cambodians didn't move any forces from Kompong Som on the mainland — which the Pentagon put at about 2400 men — to Koh

Tang island.

Other officials have said privately that the second raid probably could have been stopped at no risk to the Marines, but that from the time the Cambodians seized the commercial ship on what the United States has repeatedly stressed was international waters, a strong feeling existed among some decision-makers that the Cambodians ought to be dealt some "punitive" air strikes as well.

"From the outset," one official said, "the thinking was: 'One, how do you get the crew and ship back and two, how do you get them (the Cambodians) not to do it again.'"

The Pentagon acknowledged yesterday that U.S. B-52 bombers had been alerted on Guam. These planes were never used, but there were plans to use the B-52s, if need be, to bomb

the Kompong Som area.

Laitin also provided a revised list of casualties yesterday. He said one Marine had been killed and 13 Marines and airmen are missing.

Laitin said that the 13 missing servicemen were aboard a helicopter attempting to land Marines on Koh Tang island.

The chopper was hit by ground fire, swerved back out to sea, and eventually caught fire and crashed. The destroyer Wilson managed to scoop 13 of the 26 Marines and airmen out of water. But the rest are still missing and Laitin said: "I wouldn't want to give any great hopes."

The Pentagon also acknowledged that a mammoth 15,000-pound bomb, the biggest in the U.S. arsenal was dropped on Koh Tang island while the Marines were battling Cambodian forces.

Sources said the huge bomb was dropped after word had been received that the Mayaguez crew was not on the island.

It reportedly was dropped for two reasons: To create panic and divert the attention of the Cambodians at a time when the Marine evacuation was in some trouble and to blast another potential emergency landing site for helicopters out of jungle area on the island.

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