

# WXP Post MAY 18 1975 Thai Demands Apology From U.S.

From News Dispatches

BANGKOK, May 17—Thailand demanded today an American apology for using Thai soil as a base for the military rescue of the Mayaguez crew and formally indicated for the first time that it wants all U.S. troops out of the country within 10 months.

Thousands of students marched to the American embassy, carrying anti-U.S. posters. A shower shoe was hung from the embassy seal, an insult in the Thai culture. The demonstrators vowed to stay until the United States made a formal apology.

A delegation from the new Communist-led government in Saigon is in Bangkok and Thai Foreign Minister Chatichai Choonhavan pointedly invited them to open an embassy.

Thailand fears use of its bases to launch the recapture of the freighter Mayaguez could jeopardize relations with the new Communist governments in Cambodia and South Vietnam.

One of Saigon's representa-

tives visiting Bangkok termed the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Thailand "an urgent and indispensable question."

In a formal note protesting the Mayaguez action, Thailand directed that all remaining American forces in Thailand—now numbering about 25,000 airmen and 350 planes—be gone by March 1976.

The note, however, called for the withdrawal "in accordance with the declared policy of the Royal Thai government." Past government pronouncements on the American presence have always contained qualifications indicating the cabinet was uncertain about ridding Thailand of U.S. troops. It was unclear whether today's statement was yet another qualification.

The Thai protest note said Bangkok would review all agreements between the two countries "to ensure that the sovereignty of Thailand be respected and that the goodwill and friendship of Thailand be not abused again." The note did not demand an apology

but the foreign minister did.

Chatichai rejected an expression of "regret" from U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. He said: "The United States must give us a satisfactory answer for what it has done during the past few days."

He contended that nothing less than an official apology, written in a statement from the U.S. government would be acceptable.

Kissinger told a news conference in Washington yesterday, "Insofar as we have caused any embarrassment to the Thai government, we regret those acts."

"Kissinger did not apologize to Thailand," Chatichai said.

Chatichai said the United States "should have responded to our demand for the immediate withdrawal of the Marines."

"When they were fighting the Indochina war, the United States did not want to participate in it. When the war was over, the United States started to fight it. 'It's a joke,' he

said. "It is Thailand which has suffered."

Chatichai told South Vietnamese officials he, "any time you want to open your embassy here and normalize relations we will be glad to welcome you."

"I hope it will be very soon." Ambassador Nguyen Minh Phuong responded through an interpreter.

The Bangkok Post said that "Thai-American relations have dropped to a nadir."

In a curious side light to the Mayaguez incident and the Thai protest, a Cambodian gunboat slipped into the Thai naval base at Sattahip, also used by the United States, and stayed almost four hours before hoisting a white flag and sailing out, the Bangkok Post reported.

The newspaper said it was believed that the gunboat had been involved in the Mayaguez seizure.

U.S. authorities tried to communicate with the vessel, but the crew seemed to have

no compatible communications equipment and did not answer.

Up to 10,000 demonstrators jammed the street in front of the American embassy, and hanged a 15-foot-high effigy of Uncle Sam on the main gate.

They carried signs saying, "Ford, you are a dirty pig," and "Go to hell, bad Americans."

Despite the hostile tone of the speeches, the mood of the crowd did not appear violent. At one point when it looked like the crush of bodies would burst open the gates, Seksan Prasertkul, an organizer of the demonstration, urged them not to force their way into the embassy grounds.

Boys in the crowd jostled to urinate against the pillars of the embassy gates, however.

The stars stripes was still fluttering from the embassy flagpole after dark. Embassy officials decided to keep the flag flying rather than risk jeers from the crowd by lowering it at dusk as usual.