

MAY 19 1975

# U.S. Regrets in

## Note to Thailand

## THAILAND

### Bangkok

The United States expressed regret today to Thailand for using Thai bases as a takeoff point for the armed rescue of the freighter Mayaguez.

Thai Foreign Minister Chatichai Choonhavan told newsmen he considered the letter a formal apology.

The note U.S. Charge d'Affaires Edwin E. Master delivered to Chatichai did not use the word "apologize." But the foreign minister said it was acceptable because it reaffirmed U.S. respect for Thai sovereignty and indicated such an incident would not occur again.

The note said "the United States regrets misunderstandings that have arisen between Thailand and the United States in the recent temporary placement of Marines at Utapao (air base) to assist in the recovery of the S.S. Mayaguez . . .

"The policy of the United States continues to be one of respecting the sovereignty and independence of Thailand.

"The unique circumstances that have led to the recent turn of events do not alter this traditional rela-

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tionship and are not going to be repeated."

Meanwhile, Premier Kukrit Pramoj rejected a demand for a speedup in the withdrawal of the remaining 25,000 troops in Thailand.

Thai students burned effigies of Uncle Sam and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in front of the U.S. embassy yesterday after an all-night vigil to back demands that Washington apologize for launching the rescue of the Mayaguez from Thailand.

Several thousand students began the protests at the U.S. embassy on Saturday.

*Associated Press*