

Ford Foreign Policy Dims Kissinger Role

by Philip Shabecoff

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Judging by most accounts, Mr. Ford has been decreasing his reliance on Mr. Kissinger by steadily widening the circle from which he draws advice before reaching decisions on foreign policy.

The recent decision to launch a Marine assault to retake the American merchantman Mayaguez and her crew was an example.

"Look at the picture of the N.S.C. meeting," said one ranking aide when asked who had participated in advising the President what to do about the Mayaguez. The White House photographs of the National Security Council meeting at which the decision to attack was made show that a number of Presidential advisers who are not officially involved in foreign policy were there.

They included Donald Rumsfeld, the White House staff director, and John O. Marsh Jr. and Robert T. Hartmann, Presidential counselors. Mr. Rumsfeld is a former NATO ambassador. Mr. Marsh is responsible for White House relations with Congress and Mr. Hartmann is the President's chief political adviser in the White House.

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