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# GAO Says It Didn't Release Mayaguez Report for Debate

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The General Accounting Office says it did not time the release of its controversial report on the Mayaguez incident to coincide with last night's foreign policy debate between President Ford and Jimmy Carter.

The 162-page GAO report was critical of the White House decision to send in the Marines to recapture the Mayaguez by force when the new Cambodia Communist government had already decided to turn it loose.

In last year's three-day incident, 41 U.S. servicemen died fighting over the American merchant ship and 39 crewmen seized by Cambodia.

In San Francisco, President Ford told reporters he could not help but feel that the issuance of the congressional investigative report "is another example of partisan politics."

At the same time, the White House announced that Charles Miller, captain of the Mayaguez, had telephoned

Mr. Ford to express his "displeasure and disagreement" with the report. Mr. Ford invited Miller to meet with him.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger yesterday said the GAO report was based on "inadequate materials."

"I was there and I know what information the government was working from," Kissinger told reporters in New York.

Rep. Dante B. Fascell (D-Fla.), chairman of a House subcommittee on international political and military affairs, released the report Tuesday.

"GAO had no control over its release and was advised only after release had been made," the GAO said yesterday.

The GAO, Congress' investigative arm, said it issued the statement "in view of some press, radio and TV accounts implying that the General Accounting Office timed its report on the Mayaguez seizure to coincide with the Ford-Carter debate."