2 American Ship Hijackers Want to Quit Cambodia

Pnompenh, Cambodia, July 3 (AP) More than three months after hijacking a United States munitions ship to Cambodia, Clyde McKay and Alvin Glatowski released they were anywhere but in Cambodia.

Fortune has not been kind to the two young American civilians who, in the name of revolution, hijacked the freighter Columbia Eagle in March instead of being welcomed with open arms by a leftist government. They have been jailed by the rightist leaders who overthrew Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Chief of State.

The two men arrived in Cambodia March 15, just three days before Prince Sihanouk was overthrown. McKay and Glatowski are now housed with other political prisoners on a prison ship and are not allowed to go off the ship except under close guard. They want nothing more than to get away.

During an interview this week at the Cambodian naval base on the Mekong River where they are held, the two men asked several times to have a Soviet correspondent or diplomats from the Polish embassy come and help arrange new asylum for them.

"We Are Prisoners"

"We want to leave Cambodia," said McKay, 26 years old, of Escondido, Calif. "There is nothing here where we are now. Just can't walk down the street and go away. We have been told by the United States to extricate Prince Norodom Sihanouk. I don't know what we'll do."

If the United States did extra McKay and Glatowski, there is no extradition treaty now -- McKay and Glatowski would almost certainly remain in Cambodia. The captain of the Columbia Eagle, which was loaded with napalm bombs and bound for Thailand when hijacked, had publicly recommended that the two be tried.

Glatowski, 20, of Long Beach, Calif., said, "If we go back to the States, we won't get a trial. They won't give us a trial."

The two do not plan to return to the United States. Glatowski said: "If we go back to the States, we are free with a gun. I'll go back to participate in a guerrilla war."

McKay, who directed the hijacking, said: "If the United States gets me, they will sentence me to death or at least make my life not worth living. I won't report until the present government in the United States is overthrown."

"I am a Marxist. I believe the Marxist way of life," he added.

Glatowski said: "Yes, I do, too. You know, 'political power grows from the barrel of a gun.' McKay talked every day with a wave of his hand and said, "not that Marxist. The quotation is from Mao Tse-tung." McKay added: "It's not a new title that the Columbia Eagle took over had committed us to it was one we had accepted before. I had planned such actions many times."

McKay said that he once had spent four months with the French Foreign Legion in Somalia. He also said he had been on charge of having possessed narcotics.

The two men met for the first time just two days before the freighter sailed from California in April. Their hijacking plan developed under McKay's direction as the ship slowly made its way to Bangkok.

Off the coast of Cambodia at 12:30 P.M. on March 14, McKay pulled one of his two pistols on Capt. Donald O. Swann of Port-land, Ore. The two took command of the freighter and sounded an abandon-ship signal, which sent 24 of the 36 crew members to the lifeboats.

The two were not troubled about the safety of the crew members. "There was another ship just behind us, and besides they were in a main shipping lane," said McKay. The crewmen were picked up the same day.

The captain and the other crewmen who stayed on the ship were released by the Cambodian Government on April 8 and then left Cambodia aboard the freighter.

McKay and Glatowski are kept on the prison ships here under guard with three other prisoners, including the half-brother of Prince Sihanouk's wife, Monique.

Also with the two American seamen is an American soldier who defected from his unit in Thailand. The three have some freedom on part of the ship and are allowed to watch a television set McKay and Glatowski brought with them from the Columbia Eagle.

They rise late and laze about, halfheartedly studying French or Cambodian.

"The guards are friendly and we are allowed to send out for things we want," McKay said.

"I have a lot of dollars left so we are not facing any financial problems."

They send out for Scotch and wine, but they hunger for English-language books, which they cannot find readily in French-oriented Pnompenh.

Both are lonely. McKay said he had received only eight letters and cables in the 85 months he has been in Cambodia. Glatowski said he had received fewer and has not heard from his family.

My parents and relatives know my political views. I plan to get in touch with my wife in the near future," Glatowski said.

Hasn't Seen His Child

He paused and looked at his watch. "I have no child, one child. But I don't know what it is," he said and smiled shyly. The child was born while Glatowski was away. Neither admits to any feeling of guilt regarding the hijacking. "I feel like an American revolutionary, not a criminal," said McKay. "Globally I believe I was 100 per cent right."

They have attempted to renounce their United States citizenship. Both had sent their passports by mail to the American embassy, but official there said the documents had not been received.

They sent their draft cards and a letter renewing their citizenship in an embassy official, "We acknowledged receipt and pointed out there were certain legal formalities required to renounce their citizenships. We still consider them Americans."