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**Thais Accept U.S. Regrets;
Crisis Over Base Is Eased**

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BANGKOK, Thailand, May 19—The Thai Government accepted as a formal apology today an American note expressing regret over the misunderstandings that had arisen over use of a Thai base to recover the Mayagüez and her crew.

Soon after the note had been delivered the Thai Foreign Minister, Maj. Gen. Chatichai Choonhavan, said at a news conference that the case was closed and that he believed "bygones should be bygones." He said word had been sent to leaders of a demonstration that had been going on outside the American Embassy since Saturday that they should call it off.

There were still several hundred demonstrators outside the embassy at nightfall, with spokesmen continuing to offer threats and insults over loud-

speakers, but soon thereafter they withdrew.

At the news conference the Foreign Minister drew special attention to the part of the United States note—replying to a Thai protest against the use of the U Taphao base in freeing the freighter and her 39-man crew from Cambodian control—that said:

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

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unique circumstances that have led to the recent turn of events do not alter this traditional relationship, and are not going to be repeated.

"The Government of the United States looks forward to working in harmony and friendship with the Royal Thai Government."

While the Thai-American diplomatic crisis appeared eased, a delegation from the new Saigon Government ended a three-day visit saying that "favorable conditions for the establishment of new relations between the Republic of South Vietnam and Thailand" had not been created.

The major sticking point was a demand by the three-member mission that aircraft, ships and military equipment brought here by Vietnamese refugees should be returned to Saigon. The mission has also demanded that the United States return the South Vietnamese planes it removed from Thailand on the ground that they had been provided to the former Government as military aid.

The statement also asserted that "to build a peaceful and independent Southeast Asia, the withdrawal of United States military bases and United States troops from this region is very urgent and indispensable."

The diplomatic crisis between Thailand and the United States arose last week when a

Marine contingent was airlifted to the base at U Taphao, near Bangkok. The marines who recovered the Mayagüez, an American container ship, and her crew were flown from there.

The Thai Government, which is trying to establish relations with the Communist Governments of Asia, charged that the United States did not ask permission to use the base for an operation that both embarrassed the Government and violated Thai sovereignty.

Premier Kukrit Pramoj ordered the recall of the Thai Ambassador from Washington and a complete review of treaties and agreements with the United States, especially those pertaining to bases, which played a vital role in the Indochina war.

Recently the Thai Government demanded that all American forces—currently about 25,000—be withdrawn by the end of February; the United States tacitly agreed.

The Thai Foreign Minister

said at his new conference that in view of the American apology the Thai Ambassador would be called home merely for a few days' consultations. He said also that Thailand would work harmoniously with American officials.

The United States, in its note, said of its response to the seizure of the Mayagüez: "It is clear that by its action the United States was able to counter a common danger to all nations and to the world's commerce presented by this illegal

and unwarranted interference with international shipping routes in the Gulf of Thailand."

"The United States Government wishes to express its understanding of the problem caused the Royal Thai Government and wishes to repeat its regret," the note said.

Despite the apparent resolution of the Mayaguez crisis, recent events have demonstrated growing potential danger to the Thai Government, both from neighboring Communist countries and from internal forces. Nonetheless, senior Western

diplomats take an optimistic view, based on the idea that once Thailand is disencumbered of American military forces, much of the pressure will be relieved. They see her as a neutral country on good terms with her neighbors as well as with the rest of the world.

There is another widespread view. Pessimists say that no government has succeeded in coming to grips with the corruption that keeps many people in thrall to dishonest officials and policemen. In recent years, economists say, the gulf be-

tween the few rich and many poor in this country of 40 million has widened.

It is estimated that more than 320,000 Thais live under the control of a Communist guerrilla apparatus.

The Government is one of the weakest since World War II, being a coalition of 14 frequently quarreling parties. Doubt remains as to what the attitude would be if the United States found it necessary to use a Thai base for evacuation of Americans from Laos, where the Communist-led Pathet Lao is showing increasing domination. In any case the United States appears to have bound itself to act only with the Thai Government's permission.

Cambodia offers Amity

BANGKOK, May 19 (UPI) — The new Cambodian Government offered friendship to Thailand today and denied reports that it demanded that the border be pushed half a mile into Thai territory.

"Cambodia and her people wish that the two neighboring countries, Cambodia and Thai-

land, live peacefully within the limits of their own territory as neighbors forever," the Cambodian Information Ministry said in a broadcast monitored here.