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Why U.S.

Ignored Thailand

Bangkok

The United States disregarded Thailand's request that its bases not be used for the Mayaguez rescue because "a clear and pressing need" to save American lives outweighed Thai wishes, Undersecretary of State Philip C. Habib said yesterday.

Habib told newsmen here that Thailand's review of its agreements with the United States would have taken place even without the Mayaguez affair, in which U.S. planes used Thai bases to rescue a U.S. freighter seized by Cambodia.

Information available at the time indicated the United States "had to get those men out and get them out fast," Habib said.

He said the incident, which resulted in anti-American demonstrations in Bangkok and the recall of the Thai ambassador page 2% from Washington, was not even brought up yesterday during his talks with Thai Premier Kukrit Pramoj.

Associated Press