

## Relatives Hail Release of Crew

"It's been very trying," the wife of an officer from the freighter said last night after President Ford announced that all 39 crew members were safe.

The Mayaguez, seized by Cambodian Navy vessels early this week in the Gulf of Thailand, was recovered last night by U.S. Marines.

Dolores Coombes, whose husband Burton Coombes is a third officer aboard the vessel, said she was "very, very relieved" after the President's announcement.

The Coombeses live at 1536 Bayo Vista avenue in San Pablo.

The daughter of another Bay Area crew member, Frank Conway, said she wasn't worried about her father "until we started going in shooting."

"I would have preferred to see the government wait a little longer and be a little more patient," said Linda Shemper, 29, of Hattiesburg, Miss.

After she learned from a reporter that all crew mem-

bers were safe, she said "I think it's fantastic — I think it's great. My concern now is for the Marines — the men that are still over her-fighting.

"I feel for the Marines and their families and I think they're very brave men to do this."

Mrs. Shemper said her 53-year-old father is a native of San Francisco with eight brothers and sisters living in Northern California. She wasn't sure exactly what he does aboard ship, except that it's "in engineering."

Carmel McElroy, one of Conway's sisters who lives in San Bruno, noted that throughout the entire ordeal no one from the State Department communicated with her or other members of the family.

"This," she said "is what I got a little upset about. I think we had a right to know."

Mrs. Shemper said the family may not have been con-tacted because of a mixup about her father's



BURTON COOMBES  
Bay Area man was on ship

address. . informed the ship-ping company, Sea-Land Service Inc., that she was the daughter of a crew member, she received a tel-egram from Mississipi Sen-ator John Stennis offering his help.

Urs. Coombes, too, said she had not talked with gov-ernment officials, but con-ceded that she may not have been reach-able either because she was out or us-ing her phone.

She ad no idea, she said, when to expect her husband home.