

Thai Tells U.S. to Remove 1,100-Marine Unit Today

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Threat to Relations

By The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand, May 14 —Premier Kukrit Pramoj today gave the United States until tomorrow morning to remove 1,100 marines brought to Thailand without his permission and promised "drastic action" if his demand was not met. He did not specify the action.

The Premier told newsmen that Thailand did not intend to be drafted into American preparations to take back the American merchant ship Mayaguez. Cambodian gunboats seized the ship on Monday, and it was last reported lying in the Gulf of Siam 30 miles off the Cambodian coast.

First reports from the Thai Foreign Ministry said 800 marines arrived before dawn at the United States Air Force's U Taphao base on the south coast, but Mr. Kukrit later said that Edward E. Masters, the American chargé d'affaires, had told him that the final total was 1,100.

Panamanian Ship Stopped

A Thai protest note warned of "serious consequences" to relations between the United States and Thailand if the marines were not removed.

Meanwhile, Thai communications sources reported that Cambodia today seized another foreign merchant ship, the Panama - registered Eastern Grand, but released it after nearly two hours. The sources said the ship was intercepted

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Washington Silent

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 14 —

The United States Government maintained silence today about a Thai protest against the dispatch of 1,100 marines to Thailand for possible use in rescuing an American merchant ship seized by Cambodians.

The State Department and the White House refused to comment on the note demanding an immediate withdrawal of the marines. All that was said officially was that discussions were going on in Bangkok to resolve the matter.

But privately, State Department officials said that if the Pentagon's plans for deploying the marines aboard the carrier Coral Sea went as scheduled they should be out of Thailand soon, perhaps tomorrow.

American officials said the marines had to be sent to Thailand to get them from Okinawa quickly to the Gulf of Siam where the American container ship Mayaguez had been seized. Presumably with the Coral Sea now entering the area they can be ferried by helicopter to

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Associated Press

Charles S. Whitehouse, the new Ambassador to Thailand, arriving in Bangkok yesterday. He was met by a group of student protesters who shouted, "American, go home," and carried anti-American signs,

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near Panjang Island, 85 miles off the coast.

Mr. Kukrit, who told Mr. Masters yesterday that Thailand did not want her territory used to stage any armed operation related to the Mayaguez, summoned him again today to deliver the ultimatum.

The text of the Thai protest note follows:

"It is recalled that on May 13, 2518 [the year according to the Buddhist calendar] the Prime Minister informed the chargé d'affaires of the American Embassy that Thailand does not wish to become involved in the dispute between the United States and Cambodia over the seizure of the vessel Mayaguez, and that Thailand will not permit her territory to be used in connection with any action that might be taken by the United States against Cambodia.

"On May 14, 2518, the Thai Government learned that the United States Government had sent some elements of its Marine forces into Thailand as part of its reaction against Cambodia.

"The Thai Government considers that this action by the United States Government is not consistent with the goodwill existing between Thailand and the United States. And unless these forces, which have entered against the wishes of the Thai Government, are withdrawn immediately, the good relations and cooperation existing between Thailand and the United States would be exposed to serious and damaging consequences."

The Premier used stronger language to newsmen, charging that the arrival of the marines was "a violation of Thai sovereignty."

Meanwhile, 40 or 50 student protesters, shouting, "American, go home," were at the airport for the arrival of the new Ambassador to Thailand, Charles S. Whitehouse.

Mr. Whitehouse walked nodding and smiling between the ranks of the students and issued a prepared statement saying that he hoped to further "friendship and cooperation between our two peoples in the months ahead."

The National Student Center, which led the uprising that ended the military dictatorship

19 months ago, accused the United States of using the seizure of the freighter Mayaguez as an excuse to intervene again in Indochina.

Mr. Masters first learned from a news report from Washington that the marines were on the way. The Thai military command, which clears all international military flights, apparently was advised in advance. Presumably it did not pass the information on to the Government, a communication gap that has been common since the military dictatorship was overthrown in October, 1973.

Thailand under the military dictatorship was a staunch supporter of the United States war in Indochina and provided the bases from which most American air operations originated in the last years of the war. The present civilian Government is seeking a way to live with its new Communist neighbors and to return to the traditional Thai neutrality that kept the country independent while the rest of Southeast Asia came under European domination in the 19th century.



Associated Press

Premier Kukrit Pramoj

United States officials threw an unusual screen of secrecy around the crash of a United States military helicopter in northeast Thailand yesterday, raising speculation that it was on a mission in connection with the Mayaguez or the arrival of the marines.

Informed sources said all 23 persons aboard were killed when the aircraft crashed near the Laotian border and about 35 miles west of the United States Air Force base at Nakon Phanom. The sources said the passengers were Air Force men en route to U Taphao.

Washington Silent on the Thai Protest

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the carrier.

There was sympathy for the problem Thailand faced because of the entry of the marines. In recent months Bangkok has sought to adopt a more neutral attitude in Southeast Asia.

Premier Kukrit Pramoj, in a note delivered to the American Embassy, said the dispatch of the Marines was "not consistent with the good will existing between Thailand and the United States."

The note said unless they were pulled out immediately, the good relations and cooperation "would be exposed to serious and damaging consequences."

State Department officials said Mr. Kukrit had no alternative but to make a protest in view of his efforts to seek better relations with China and North Vietnam and to avoid antagonizing the new Cambodian government.

But some officials said they believed that the protests coming from Thailand would soon be forgotten because the Thais also did not want to sever their relations with Washington, their major ally for the last 20 years.

The Thais said they had not received any advance warning of the dispatch of the marines to the American-operated, but Thai-owned air base at U Tapao.

American officials would not confirm this, and one official said "Obviously Kukrit would

have preferred that there would be no publicity about this."

The United States and Thailand are allies under the 1954 accord that established the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization, a now moribund organization. Under the treaty, the United States was obligated to "Act to meet the common danger in accordance with its constitutional processes" if Thailand or any other of the treaty area states was a victim of aggression. The other members were Australia, Britain, France, New Zealand and the Philippines.

In 1962, the United States affirmed its obligation to Thailand in a communiqué signed by Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Foreign Minister Thanat Khomin.

^{BASES} ~~Six Air Bases Used~~

Beginning in 1964, the United States began to upgrade air base facilities with Thailand's permission, and by the time the Vietnam cease-fire accords were signed, Americans were using six Thai air bases.

In 1973 there were about 46,000 Americans stationed in Thailand. Now the figure is closer to 25,000, with extensive cuts planned for the next few months as part of the Thai Government's efforts to reduce the American presence.

The dispatch of any American forces has to be cleared formally with the Thai Government under the base accords, and the Thais were supposed to approve the targets of air

strikes mounted from Thailand.

Thus, the Thai Government was supposed to have approved the dispatch of the marines to Thailand yesterday.

The Thais have always been sensitive to suggestions that they are not masters of their own fate. They have not sought publicity about the bases, and it has been difficult for American newsmen to visit the bases.

This sensitivity was strengthened with the overthrow of the military-led government last year and the rise to power of a civilian regime. The Government, now led by Premier Kukrit, seeks the left-wing parties that have sought the complete withdrawal of Americans.

Mr. Kukrit's moderate Social Action party ran fifth among the 22 parties represented in last January's elections. He himself was a newspaper publisher and columnist, who played the role of an Asian Premier in the movie "The Ugly American" in real life, he became Premier on platform calling for the withdrawal of American forces in a year.

The Thais contend that their security now lies in making friends with China and alleviating concern in North Vietnam about their policies. At the same time, the Thais want to continue receiving American aid.

Some American officials said a strong stand by the United States in the Cambodian seizure might actually reassure the Thais even though protests would be made.