

SFChronicle

Mayaguez

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Crew Can

## Fly Home

Menlo Park, N.J.

Owners of the rescued freighter Mayaguez said yesterday the ship's crew will be allowed to return home within 48 hours.

Michael McEvoy, chairman of the board of SeaLand Service, Inc., of Menlo Park, N.J., which owns the Mayaguez, repeated previous assertions that the Mayaguez was not carrying arms and also denied Cambodian Communist claims that the ship had been spying on Cambodian territory.

McEvoy said the ship, freed by a Marine task force after being commandeered by Cambodians, carries 77 containerized loads, mostly foodstuffs and PX supplies.

"There are no hazardous or secret equipment aboard this ship — no arms and no ammunition," McEvoy said.

McEvoy said the ship will reach Singapore within 48 hours and the crew would be given the opportunity to fly home for reunions with their families.

McEvoy repeated earlier denials that the ship was not involved in American espionage activities despite the firm's long relationship as a military cargo carrier for the U.S. government.

The firm is owned by R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and carried about \$25 million annually in cargo for the government during the war.

McEvoy said the cargo included two containers of mail, 26 of replacement parts, three of foodstuffs, eight of commissary supplies and 38 of liquor, beer, soda and other PX items.

United Press