

U.S. Accused of 'Piracy'

Peking

China accused the United States yesterday of an 'outright act of piracy' by sending U.S. Marines to recapture the American freighter Mayaguez and her crew seized by the Khmer Rouge off Cambodia.

Chinese Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien made the charge at reception here to celebrate the Viet Cong's victory in South Vietnam. He stated that the Mayaguez had "invaded Cambodia's territorial waters."

"U.S. imperialism has not yet learned the lesson it ought to have learned from its defeat in Indochina," Li declared. It was the first public Chinese reaction to the Mayaguez incident.

"A few days ago," Li said. 'When an American ship invaded Cambodia's territorial waters, Cambodia took le-

gitimate measures to safeguard her state sovereignty.

'But the United States went so far as to make an issue of this matter and send planes to bomb Cambodian territory and ships,' The vice premier said. "This is an outright act of piracy which should be strongly condemned by world public

opinion."

Questioned about the Mayaguez, a senior member of the Cambodian Embassy in Peking who attended the reception commented that 'if the boat had not been in Cambodian territorial waters, we would not have taken it.'

Agence France-Press