

NY Times
**SOVIET WITHHOLDS
COMMENT ON RAID**

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Shows Restraint in Press
on U.S. Rescue of Ship

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MOSCOW, May 15—The Soviet Union withheld comment today on the American military operation that freed the freighter Mayaguez and 39 crewmen seized by the Cambodians.

The incident was noted this afternoon by Tass, the official press agency and the Government newspaper Izvestia. The reports were factual, without criticism of the operation.

The Moscow radio limited itself to a reading of a Tass dispatch from Washington. The evening television news program made no mention of the incident, reporting instead preparations in Houston for the Soviet-American space flight in July.

While the Kremlin often waits a while to comment on world events, the initial silence suggested that Moscow was concerned about saying anything that could jeopardize the accommodation with Washington at a time when relations have been put under some strain by the Communist victories in Indochina.

Moscow has problems of its own with the new government in Phnom Penh. The Russians are understood to be upset by the treatment given their caretaker staff at the Soviet Embassy in Phnom Penh, who were transported out of Cambodia along with other foreigners by the new Communist Government.

It was considered a measure of the progress of détente that the Soviet press refrained from polemical reaction to the American military action.

The Tass dispatch reported complaints by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts; Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield of Montana; Representative Bella S. Abzug, Democrat of New York, and others in Congress. Tass also noted without comment a demand by Thailand that American marines be withdrawn from the country immediately and quoted "the American press" as having reported that the operation had caused "protests in many countries."