

# CAMBODIANS CITE TIMING OF AIR RAID

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U.S. Charged With 'Savage'  
Bombing of Mainland After  
Ship Had Been Freed

PEKING, May 16 (Agence France-Presse) — The Cambodian Embassy here said today that American planes had bombed Sihanoukville in Cambodia and the neighboring town of Ream after the captured freighter Mayaguez and her crew had been released.

The embassy also charged that American military intervention started at dawn on Tuesday, Cambodian time.

[Well-informed sources in Bangkok said today that the crew of the Mayaguez—seized on Monday by Cambodian naval forces—were handed over at 9:30 A.M. and that Thai-based American fighter-bombers attacked Sihanoukville and Ream at 10:09 A.M.]

In the first of two texts issued here, the embassy said that the Cambodian Government had decided that the Cambodian Government had decided to free the 10,485-ton Mayaguez and her crew in the early hours of Tuesday. 13 MAY

## Losses Reported

The text continued: "Nevertheless, on the same day at 10:50 A.M. the American imperialists sent their planes to savagely bomb the port and petrol refinery [unused] of Sihanoukville and the naval and air bases of Ream, causing substantial material and human losses."

The text added that the attack had been deliberately carried out by the Americans after the ship and the crew had already been freed.

The second text, of a speech made yesterday by the Cambodian Information Minister Hu Nim, said American planes had flown in relays from 5 A.M. Tuesday Cambodian time, to bomb and strafe the area around the ship, the islands of Wai and Tang and the Sihanoukville region.

Wai is the island 60 miles off the Cambodian coast near which the Mayaguez was seized on Monday. Tang is the

island where the ship was held. American accounts have not mentioned any bombardment of Wai.

Mr. Hu Nim accused the United States of carrying out systematic espionage and sabotage in Cambodia with Thai fishing boats, armed with explosives and supplied with radios by the Central Intelligence Agency.

## China Gives Version

Hsinhua, the Chinese press agency, today carried China's version of the events, saying that the vessel was stopped in Cambodia's territorial waters and that it was a spy ship equipped with radar and scientific gear and carried military goods.

Today's Chinese reaction followed a first statement last night by Deputy Premier Li Hsien-Nien, who labeled the American intervention an act of piracy.

Today's version contended that the Mayaguez had been held by the Cambodian Navy simply for inquiries and that it had been decided afterward to release it.

The freighter, the agency said, had entered Cambodian waters illegally, obviously for conducting spying and reconnaissance activities and creating trouble.

## Refinery Reported Bombed

BANGKOK, Thailand, May 16 (Agence France-Presse)—American planes bombed an unused oil refinery on the Cambodian mainland during the operation to rescue the freighter Mayaguez, Phnom Penh Radio said in a broadcast monitored here today.

The French-built refinery outside the port of Sihanoukville, known as Kompong Som under the former government had been closed for several years as the result of Communist shelling and commando raids during the war in Cambodia.

The radio said the Government had voluntarily released the crew of the Mayaguez together with five Thai fishermen whose vessel had been boarded some time ago. Information Minister Hu Nim charged during the broadcast that both the Mayaguez and the fishing boat were spy ships working for the C.I.A.

Mr. Hu Nim gave no details of any espionage equipment found aboard the Mayaguez but said the fishing boat carried a radio, a rifle and dynamite. A member of the Thai Fishermen's Union said that a number of Thai fishing boats carried radios and he said that dynamite was often used illegally in fishing.

Mr. Hu Nim said that the Khmer Rouge had suffered a number of casualties when the marines landed on Tang Island. He gave no details, however.