

Thais, Angered at the U.S., Recall Their Ambassador

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BANGKOK, Thailand, May 16 —Premier Kukrit Pramoj said tonight that Thailand was recalling her Ambassador to the United States for consultations after what he described as an American violation of this country's sovereignty.

Mr. Kukrit spoke with newsmen following what was reported to have been a sometimes heated two-hour Cabinet meeting to discuss the action by United States marines yesterday in freeing the freighter Mayaguez and its crew from Cambodian Communist forces. The marines involved had been flown before the operation to the U Taphao air base in Thailand as their staging point. The Premier said that all

agreements and treaties with the United States were being reviewed and that the American presence in Thailand might be ended.

In the early nineteen-fifties, the United States and Thailand signed agreements involving military and economic assistance. Under these agreements, Thailand has received more than \$600-million in economic-development assistance and \$1-billion in military assistance. Thailand, in turn, has permitted the United States the use of four air bases around the country.

In 1962 the United States promised support, through the South East Asia Treaty Organization, to help Thailand meet Communist aggression. In 1969 President Richard M. Nixon reaffirmed that commitment and earlier this month the United States again reaffirmed the commitment.

Earlier this year, the Thai Government set a March, 1976, deadline for the withdrawal of all American troops.

Despite the Premier's anger at Washington, he ruled out a break in diplomatic relations and said that a too-rapid removal of the 25,000 American servicemen still stationed in Thailand might be to the country's disadvantage. American

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forces, under an existing agreement, are scheduled to be phased out of Thailand within a year.

The Thai Government is expected to move rapidly toward some form of relations with both North Vietnam and the Communist regime in Saigon, and the use of a Thai base for the American rescue operation has embarrassed Bangkok. Mr. Kukrit pointedly noted that a three-member Vietcong delegation arrived here today to begin diplomatic talks, and that a group from Hanoi would arrive Monday.

He said that Thailand's Ambassador to Washington, Anand Panyarachun, would present Washington with a memorandum recounting the events of the last few days and tell the United States Government that to prevent such events in the future, the Thai Government will review all treaties and agreements, in whatever respect, with the United States Government, for the purpose of birnging them up to date."

Review Expected

Such agreements include those that gave American forces the use of Thai bases to prosecute the Indochina war over the years. Thailand probably will also study her continued participation in the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, whose headquarters are in Bangkok. This organization was established by the Eisenhower Administration as an Asian counterpart to the North

Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the object of containing communism.

The Premier was asked whether there was any substance to speculation in Washington that Thailand had been consulted in advance of the American marine raid.

He was also asked about the possibility that his Government had not been formally notified, but that the Thai armed forces had been told of the intended American action.

"Absolutely not," he said, "we were not told or consulted. The commander of the armed forces [Gen. Kris Sivara, who attended the Cabinet meeting] has just told me again that the armed forces were not informed either."

Despite the harsh tone of some of Mr. Kukrit's remarks, some were more conciliatory. Asked about Thai press reports that he had expressed the intention of severing relations with Washington completely, he said.

'I Like Americans'

"I never said that and I won't. I like Americans."

Some politically important Thai student groups are demanding a demanding a Washington apology for the latest incident. One group said it had submitted a "24-hour ultimatum" to the United States Embassy here, demanding an apology. Otherwise, student sources said, huge anti-American demonstrations would begin tomorrow.

The Premier said that he was not asking for such an apology. "Do you think they would apologize?" he asked with a smile. "No, I prefer sincerity of actions." However, he said that an apology might appease "some elements in Thailand" that were calling for a harshly anti-American policy. These elements are represented in the Thai Cabinet itself, informants said.

Bad News for Vietnamese

The Premier had bad news for the 40,000 Vietnamese who live in this country. Most of them moved here during the first Indochina war or just after its conclusion in 1954. For years, successive Thai governments, regarding the Vietnamese as potential allies of Hanoi in any possible conflict between North Vietnam and Thailand, have been seeking to oust them.

Mr. Kukrit was asked whether he expected that this would be done now that relations with Communist Vietnam

are being established. He replied:

"I am quite sure of it."

This would mean the forcible relocation of virtually all the Vietnamese in Thailand to North Vietnam.

Reviewing his recent exchanges with the American Embassy here, he said: "When we learned that the marines were being sent here without the permission of the Thai Government to spy on Cambodia and attack Cambodian ships, we protested. I summoned the chargé [Edward E. Masters] and informed him we did not want to be involved in any United States action against Cambodia.

"The chargé took note of this and agreed that the base is a Thai base on Thai soil.

"Then, after the marines arrived, I summoned him again and made a protest that I had not been respected. I demanded that the marines be withdrawn immediately. They were not. No notice was apparently taken of what I had said."

The American Embassy has declined all comment on any question relating to the marine operation, and Mr. Masters has declined to receive the newsmen.