

NYTimes  
**KISSINGER CALLS  
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MAY 17 1975

Says It Shows World There  
Are Limits Beyond Which  
Nation Cannot Be Pushed

**REGRETS FOR THAILAND**

Secretary Sorry About Not  
Consulting, but Chides Ally  
for Lack of 'Sympathy'

By **BERNARD GWERTZMAN**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 16 — Secretary of State Kissinger said today that the rescue of the container ship Mayaguez and its crew should demonstrate to the world that "there are limits beyond which the United States cannot be pushed."

In a news conference at the State Department, Mr. Kissinger stressed, however, that the United States had not sought the military confrontation in the Gulf of Siam; that whatever international benefits accrued to this country was only a "by-product, a bonus" of the main rescue operation.

"We are not going around looking for opportunities to prove our manhood," he said.

**Regrets to Thailand**

Mr. Kissinger also expressed "regret" at any embarrassment the United States might have caused Thailand by flying 1,100 marines to air bases there for the rescue operation without first consulting Thai officials.

But he strongly chided the Thais for their failure as an American ally to reciprocate and "look with some sympathy at matters that concern the United States profoundly."

The Thais, worried about relations with their Communist neighbors in Vietnam and Cam-

bodia, have publicly protested over the dispatch of the marines to Thailand without permission and today summoned home their Ambassador from Washington for consultations.

**Only Concern Is Rescue**

Although the Ford Administration was pleased by the success of the operation—notwithstanding the Marine and Air Force casualties — word was passed to White House and State Department spokesmen not to gloat publicly and to deny that the United States had been eager for a confrontation to prove its firmness.

Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, for instance, said that President Ford "firmly rejects" speculation that the United States had welcomed the crisis. He said the decision to use force "was based 100 per cent and entirely on a single consideration—to get the crew and the ship back."

But as Mr. Kissinger has indicated, today and earlier in private, the Administration has always been aware of the worldwide implications of doing nothing and seeming to appear weak and indecisive.

The decision to act decisively was viewed in the National Security Council as signaling to North Korea and other Communist countries an American

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determination to meet force with force.

"I don't want to transform it into an apocalyptic event," Mr. Kissinger said of the recovery operation. "The impact ought to be to make clear that there are limits beyond which the United States cannot be pushed, and that the United States is prepared to defend those interests, and that it can get public support and Congressional support for those actions."

"But we are not going around looking for opportunities to prove our manhood," he continued. "We will judge actions in the light of our interests and the extent of the provocation."

**Efforts Defended**

Mr. Kissinger, who played a major role in the Administration's behind-the-scenes decisions all week, strongly defended the Administration's efforts to get a diplomatic solution before resorting to force.

He said that if the United States had received any message from Cambodia or any other source, "then we would have had a subject matter for diplomacy on which to act." But, he said, no communication was received, and after 60 hours had gone by, the Administration decided "to try to seize the ship."

"It was a balance that had to be struck," he said. "We thought the risks of waiting another 24 to 48 hours in the absence of any communication whatsoever from any government were greater than the risks of going ahead."

The main concern, he and Mr. Nessen both said, was that the crew would be moved to the mainland and become hostages, as was the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo held by the North Koreans for almost a year in 1968.

"We wanted to avoid a situation in which the United States

<p>might have to negotiate over a very extended period of time, over a group of merchant seamen who had no connection whatever with any governmental activity," Mr. Kissinger said.</p> <p>Mr. Kissinger said the United States decided that "we had to draw a line against illegal actions and secondly, against situations where the United States might be forced into a humiliating discussion about the ransom of innocent merchant seamen."</p>	<p>views, regret that the Thais were embarrassed, but annoyance that Thailand had not taken account of American problems as well.</p> <p>He said that Thailand had not been consulted ahead of time because it was an "emergency" situation, and even if it had, this would have caused "massive problems."</p>	<p>political decisions to break some of the deadlocks that have arisen in the negotiations for a treaty defining and limiting offensive strategic weapons.</p> <p>Both sides have agreed that they should be limited to 2,400</p>	<p>bombers and missiles, of which 1,320 can be missiles with multiple warheads. But they have yet to agree on the definition of what aircraft should be regarded as "strategic" and how to verify the accord.</p>
<p>Other State Department officials said that on Monday night, the first day of the Gulf of Siam crisis, diplomatic notes were sent to the Cambodian Government directly through its embassy in Peking and through the good offices of the Peking Government.</p> <p>But on Wednesday, shortly before the National Security Council met and authorized the use of force to seize the ship, both notes were returned to the United States without comment.</p>	<p>The implication of his remarks was that Washington believed Thailand preferred not having to know in advance of the marines being sent there.</p> <p>Mr. Kissinger was asked about the willingness of the new Communist Government in Saigon to have diplomatic relations with Washington. He replied that the whole matter was under consideration "and we have not yet reached a conclusion."</p>		
<p>Mr. Kissinger said that he assumed that the Chinese wanted to "formally disassociate" themselves from the diplomacy, but that it was quite possible they were active privately and informally.</p>	<p><b>Exports Barred</b></p>		
<p><b>Questions About Relations</b></p> <p>Many questions were asked about American relations with Thailand.</p>	<p>In a related development, the Commerce Department announced today that all American exports to South Vietnam and Cambodia will now be barred except for "special humanitarian considerations." The countries were placed in the same category as North Vietnam, North Korea and Cuba—Communist states regarded as most unfriendly to the United States. Movement is under way, however, to consider lifting the curbs against Cuba.</p>		
<p>Privately, senior officials have said that the Thai probably welcome the American action in the Gulf of Siam but publicly, because of the political climate in Thailand, must condemn it.</p>	<p>On the Middle East, Mr. Kissinger said that the United States had no confirmation of press reports of a military pact between Jordan and Syria, and defended the sale of Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan to enable her to avoid such pacts with Syria.</p>		
<p>Mr. Kissinger said that he did not believe diplomatic relations would be severed as a result of the dispute. He also said the United States was ready to discuss all issues with Bangkok "in a spirit of appreciation" for what Thailand has done for the United States over several decades.</p>	<p>As to his meetings in Vienna next week with Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko of the Soviet Union, Mr. Kissinger said he thought that relations with Moscow were making "reasonable progress," but that both sides would have to make</p>		
<p>Over all, Mr. Kissinger seemed to want to express two</p>			

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1975



Secretary of State Kissinger at his news conference, where he warned that "there are limits beyond which the United States cannot be pushed"

The New York Times/Mike Lien