Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) was quoted inaccu-rately in The Washington Post last Friday as approving of President Ford's handling of the Mayaguez incident, a spokesman for the senator said yesterday.

McGovern was quoted as saying, "It worked and I'm glad he did it." The senator said that he "never at any time approved the handling time approved the handling of the matter."

"Needless to say, I am gratified that the crew has been recovered, but the action was not in keeping with the maturity of a great nation," McGovern said in a statement.