

NYTimes  
**Thai Premier Says  
He Hopes to Avoid  
Hasty Exit by U.S.**

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BANGKOK, Thailand, May 20 (Reuters)—Premier Kukrit Pramoj said today that a hasty withdrawal of United States forces could create problems for the Thai Government.

He told reporters that it might be difficult for Thailand to take over the four United States air bases and other facilities without preparation.

Protest groups have demanded the withdrawal of the 27,000 United States servicemen from Thailand after an uproar over the Mayaguez incident.

Only yesterday, with demonstrators besieging its gates, the United States embassy was forced to express regret for American use of the U Taphao air base to airlift marines to help rescue the container ship Mayaguez from Cambodia.

The Thai Government said it would review its military and economic ties with Washington as a result of the incident.

As matters stand, the United States has agreed to remove its forces from Thailand by next March at the latest. But student protest groups are demanding a pullout by July 4.

"It is possible that the withdrawal could be sooner than March, but it would be difficult for us because we would have to take over all their facilities in a hurry," Mr. Kukrit said. "However, we will listen to the public and political parties' intentions."