

2 American Ship Hijackers Want to Quit Cambodia

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, July 3 (AP) — More than three months after hijacking a United States munitions ship to Cambodia, Clyde McKay and Alvin Glatowski wish they were anywhere but in Cambodia.

Fortune has not been kind to the two young American civilians who, in the name of revolution, hijacked the freighter Columbia Eagle in March. Instead of being welcomed with open arms by a leftist government, they have been jailed by the rightist leaders who overthrew Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Chief of State.

The two men arrived in Cambodia March 15, just three days before Prince Sihanouk was overthrown. McKay and Glatowski are now housed with other political prisoners on a prison ship and are not allowed off the ship except under close guard. They want nothing more than to get away.

During an interview this week at the Cambodian naval base on the Mekong River where they are held, the two men asked several times to have a Soviet correspondent or diplomats from the Soviet or Polish embassies come and help arrange new asylum for them.

'We Are Prisoners'

"We want to leave Cambodia," said McKay, 26 years old, of Escondido, Calif. "There is nothing we can do from where we are now. I just can't walk down the street and go away. We are prisoners. And if the United States attempts to extradite us, I don't know what we'll do."

If the United States did extradite them—there is no extradition treaty now — McKay and Glatowski would almost certainly stand trial for mutiny and hijacking. The captain of the Columbia Eagle, which was loaded with napalm bombs and bound for Thailand when hijacked, has publicly recommended that the two be tried.

Glatowski, 20, of Long Beach, Calif., said: "If we go back to the States, we won't get a trial. They won't give us a trial."

The two do not plan to return to the United States. Glatowski said: "The only way to go back is with a gun. I'll go back to participate in a guerrilla war."

McKay, who directed the hi-



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Clyde McKay, left, and Alvin Glatowski near prison ship

jacking, said: "If the United States gets me, they will sentence me to death or at least make life not worth living. I won't go back until the present form of government in the United States is overthrown."

"I am a Marxist. I believe the Marxist way of life," he added.

Glatowski said: "Yes, I do, too. You know, 'political power grows from the barrel of a gun.'" McKay silenced him with a wave of his hand and said, "not that Marxist." The quotation is from Mao Tse-tung. McKay added: "It's not a new life that the Columbia Eagle take-over had committed us to. It was one we had accepted before. I had planned such acts many times."

McKay said that he once had spent four months with the French Foreign Legion in Somalia. He also said he had been jailed in Spain for eight months on charges of having possessed narcotics.

The two men met for the first

time just two days before the freighter sailed from California in April. Their hijacking plan developed under McKay's direction as the ship slowly made its way to Bangkok.

Off the coast of Cambodia at 1:15 P.M. on March 14, McKay pulled one of his two pistols on Capt. Donald O. Swann of Portland, Ore. The two took command of the freighter and sounded an abandon-ship signal, which sent 24 of the 39 crewmen over the side in lifeboats.

The two were not worried about the safety of the crewmen put to sea. "There was another ship just behind us, and besides they were in a main shipping lane," said McKay. The crewmen were picked up the same day.

The captain and the other crewmen who stayed on the ship were released by the Cambodian Government on April 8 and then left Cambodia aboard the freighter.

McKay and Glatowski are kept on the prison ships here under guard with five other prisoners, including the half-brother of Prince Sihanouk's wife, Monique.

Also with the two American seamen is an American soldier who defected from his unit in Thailand. The three have some freedom on part of the ship and are allowed to watch a television set McKay and Glatowski brought with them from the Columbia Eagle.

They rise late and laze about, halfheartedly studying French or Cambodian.

"The guards are friendly and we are allowed to send out for things we want," McKay said. "I have several hundred dollars left so we are not facing any financial problems."

They send out for Scotch and wines, but they hunger for English-language books, which they cannot find readily in French-oriented Pnompennh.

Both are lonely. McKay said he had received only eight letters and cables in the 3½ months he has been a prisoner. Glatowski said he had received fewer and has not heard from his family.

"My parents and relatives know my political views. I plan to get in touch with my wife in the near future," Glatowski said.

Hasn't Seen His Child

He paused and looked at his hands. "I have a child, one child. But I don't know what it is," he said and smiled shyly. The child was born while Glatowski was away.

Neither admits to any feeling of guilt regarding the hijacking.

"I feel like an American revolutionary, not a criminal," said Glatowski. "Morally I believe I was 100 per cent right."

They have attempted to renounce their United States citizenship. Both said they had sent their passports by mail to the American Embassy, but officials there said the documents had not been received.

"They sent their draft cards and a letter renouncing their citizenship," an embassy official said. "We acknowledged receipt and pointed out there were certain legal formalities required to renounce their citizenship. We still consider them Americans."