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[Redacted]

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

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23 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: The Rescue of the S.S. Mayaguez and Its Crew

1. In your memorandum of 18 May, you levied three requests for data or comments on matters relating to the rescue of the S.S. Mayaguez and its crew. The response to one of your requests was sent to you on 20 May [Redacted]

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2. Attached is the response to one of the other two requests -- a chronological exposition by Agency of the events and activities involving the Intelligence Community during the Mayaguez affair. I am also sending you today, under separate cover, the response to the third request -- suggestions for improvements in the national crisis machinery prompted by the Mayaguez incident.

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Respectfully
Bill
W. E. Colby

Attachment

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GLOSSARY

CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CINCPAC	Commander-in-Chief, Pacific
CINCPACFLT	Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet
CINCSAC	Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Air Command
CJCS	Chief, Joint Chiefs of Staff
COMNAVSECGRU	Commander, Naval Security Group
COMPASS LINK	Electronic Transmission System for Photography
COMSEVFLT	Commander, Seventh Fleet
CSG	Cryptologic Support Group
CTG	Commander, Task Group
DCI	Director of Central Intelligence
DDO/CIA	Deputy Director of Operations, CIA
DDO/NSA	Deputy Director for Operations, National Security Agency
DDO/State	Deputy Director of Operations (Officer-in-Charge of State Operations Center)
DEFCON	Defense Condition
DF	Direction Finding, Radio Direction Finding
DIA	Defense Intelligence Agency
DOD	Department of Defense
EA	Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State
ELINT	Electronic Intelligence
FBIS	Foreign Broadcast Information Service
INR	Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State
INR/CIS	Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Central Intelligence Staff
IPAC	Intelligence Center, Pacific
IPIR	Initial Photographic Intelligence Report
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
JRC	Joint Reconnaissance Center
KC	Khmer Communists
NIB	National Intelligence Bulletin
NID	National Intelligence Digest
NIO	National Intelligence Officer
NKP	Nakhon Phanom
NMCC	National Military Command Center
NMIC	National Military Intelligence Center
NOIWON	National Operations and Intelligence Watch Officers Network
NOSIC	Naval Ocean Surveillance Information Center
NSC	National Security Council
NSOC	National SIGINT Operations Center (NSA's Operations Center)
OLYMPIC TORCH	A US airborne SIGINT collection program using U-2R aircraft
P3	A US reconnaissance aircraft
PACFLT	Pacific Fleet
PACOM	Pacific Command
SAC	Strategic Air Command
SIGINT	Signals Intelligence
S/S	State Secretariat
TG	Task Group
USAFSS	US Air Force Security Service (the US Air Force SIGINT Service)
USASA	US Army Security Agency (the US Army SIGINT Service)
USM-7 (Udorn)	US SIGINT collection station at Udorn, Thailand
USSAG	US Special Assistance Group, Nakhon Phanom, Thailand
WHSR	White House Situation Room

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INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM*

SUBJECT: Chronological Listing of Intelligence Community
Activities During the Mayaguez Affair

I. Activities of the National Security Agency (NSA)

A. Events before Seizure of Mayaguez

7 May 1975

1438 EDT** NSA (2/00/7530-75): Reports capture of 6 "Chinese" vessels, on 6 May, that were enroute to Thailand. Vessels, reportedly carrying refugees "from Saigon," were taken to mainland.

1440 NSA (2/00/7531-75): Reports on Cambodian seizure of 9 Thai vessels on 2 May, in what was described as "our" territorial waters.

8 May

1418 EDT NSA report (2/00/7600-75) gives details on the 7 May seizure of Panamanian registry vessel.

1612 NSA (2/00/7624-75): Reports Cambodian capture of South Vietnamese vessel and execution of crew on 6 May.

1719 NSA Tasking Message to USM-7 (Udon) (B33-429-75): Provides brief background on recent Cambodian seizures and assigned specific collection coverage in first priority.

9 May

1350 EDT NSA (2/00/7660-75): Reports the seizure of a Panamanian vessel on 7 May located 20 miles off

* This memorandum was prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State.

** All times in this memorandum are Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

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Poulo Wai. Also reported the new Cambodian boundary had been extended 30 miles outside Poulo Wai.

B. Events following capture of Mayaguez

12 May 1975

0318 EDT SS Mayaguez boarded by Khmer Communists (KC).

0503 US Mission Jakarta issues CRITIC.

0515 NSA received CRITIC on seizure of Mayaguez.

0517 Advises Deputy Director for Operations (DDO)/NSA of CRITIC.

0520 CRITIC Followup 1: Vessel under own power enroute Sihanoukville.

0545 CRITIC Followup 2: Lost contact with Mayaguez.

0645 Secret Service asked if State received CRITIC. Affirmative response.

0715 Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT) request to NSA for information on Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) collection against Cambodia.

1030 Commander in Chief, Pacific (CINCPAC) launched P3 aircraft to photo Mayaguez.

1425 Naval Ocean Surveillance Information Center (NOSIC) asks NSA for Cambodian Navy Direction Finding (DF); NOSIC received the question from Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

1445 Chief, Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) advises that he will assist NSA (if we require assistance) in getting airborne collection re Cambodian situation.

1458 NSA sends additional special tasking instructions to USM-7 (Udorn) and additional background information (B33-434-75).

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- ✓ 1527 EDT NSA sends tipoff message to Overhead Satellite [Redacted] advises them of CRITIC, and tells site to be alert for any possible reaction. 25X1

- 1550 CINCPAC (Adm Gaylor) at National Military Command Center (NMCC) requests NSA for anything available from SIGINT on KC occupying Islands/Gulf of Thailand. Provided pertinent product reports.

- 1557 Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) (DIA DC 05204 May 75) validates to NSA an urgent requirement for immediate SIGINT coverage of Cambodian Navy and port facilities.

- 1658 NSA reports (2/00/7754-75) summary of KC naval activity in the Gulf of Thailand since early May.

- 1705 Adm Gaylor expresses appreciation for reports provided.

- 2100 NSA initiates action on establishing special time-critical reporting in response to a Commander Seventh Fleet (COMSEVFLT) request (122105Z).

- 2100 NSA establishes and activates computerized reporting procedures for support to Gulf of Thailand operation.

- 2145 Two Flash messages received: (a) COMSEVFLT (122350Z) says USS Hancock is to get underway from Subic Bay at 131600Z at 18 kts or 132200Z 23 kts. Marines are to be loaded by 130800Z, CTG 77.5 prepared to conduct mine operations at 1st light on 15 May. (b) JCS (130122Z) tells CINCPAC that USS Coral Sea is to proceed at maximum speed to Poulo Wai Island and await further instructions.

- 2236 NSA updates DDO and internal NSA elements on Mayaguez situation, including airborne posture.

- 2255 Task Group 72.3 reports that the Mayaguez is dead in water and 2 KC gunboats are nearby.

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13 May 1975

? 0300 EDT CINCPACFLT advises that the P3 observed the Mayaguez dead in water. The P3 was fired upon by one of the KC gunboats.

0045 Cryptologic Support Group (CSG) at 7th Fleet asks for AAA and SAM OB for area.

0045 CINCPACFLT asks NSA about coverage of KC Navy.

0106 NSA representative (REP) NMCC advises NSA that the P3 reported that the Mayaguez is underway and is 50 miles from Sihanoukville.

0135 NSA establishes and activates additional automatic support procedures for the operation.

0230 NSA Rep NMCC advises that the Mayaguez is still underway.

0310 Replies to CSG CINCPACFLT on AAA/SAM OB data.

0330 NSA releases message (V3-337-75) advising users that NSA has implemented special support actions for the Mayaguez situation.

0429 NSA releases message (V3-336-75) to all field sites in the area with instructions for time-critical reporting for Task Group support.

0430 NSA releases message (V3-335-75) to additional field sites containing same information and instruction as above.

0435 NSA releases message (V3-333-75) to area field sites for further special support reporting instructions to Task Group.

0437 Receives Flash message (time 0418) from USM-7 (Udorn) reporting that Commander of the KC 3rd Division was to move the 42 Americans and 9 Vietnamese to Koh Tang Isle.

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0437 EDT Intelligence Center Pacific (IPAC) queries if Americans referred to in USM-7 Flash report were from Mayaguez. IPAC quotes DIA to effect that there were 9 foreign nationals onboard.

0450 NSA releases message (V3-334-75) with additional instructions to field sites for support for Task Group.

0530 JCS advises NSA that JCS has high interest in developments. NSA advises that we have maximized the SIGINT system and will relay anything obtained soonest.

0535 P3 reconnaissance aircraft reports the Mayaguez is ready to anchor off Koh Tang at 130625Z. P3 was fired upon from the Mayaguez.

0647 NSA REP NMCC advises NSA of a Flash JCS message (time 0617) authorizing use of fighter aircraft to prevent movement of the Mayaguez into port. No firing on Cambodian boats authorized.

0745 The P3 reports that a tug is departing and the Mayaguez is heading for "shore" (probably the island).

0930 OLYMPIC TORCH (U-2R) COMINT aircraft commenced flying 24-hour support missions.

1010 NSA received 7th Air Force Situation Report that all personnel were transferred to Island.

1140 NSA message (B33-439-75) to USM-7 (Udorn) refines collection guidance and requests site to advise NSA if additional assistance is required.

1222 NSA message (V12-637-75) provides units with additional reporting guidance.

1313 DIA contacted NSA about Communications Intelligence (COMINT) on Cambodian Navy.

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- 1409 EDT NSA message (V39-483-75) provides airborne unit with all available technical information on KC Naval communications.

- 1416 NSA message (V39-418-75) provides Radio Direction Finding (DF) net control with technical material for KC shipping for DF tasking.

- 1439 NSA message (V36-084) to [Redacted] with background and reporting guidance. 25X1

- ✓ 1440 NSA receives JCS message to Commander in Chief, Strategic Air Command (CINCSAC) requesting use of OLYMPIC TORCH reconnaissance aircraft to provide C³ support to forces in area of Mayaguez.

- ✓ 1511 NSA message (B3-092-75) to US Army Security Agency (USASA) and US Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) requests commanders identify linguists to support increased airborne collection processing.

- 1535 National Intelligence Officer advises NSA that the National Security Council may authorize marine helo effort to get the Mayaguez and crew back.

- ✓ 1545 USAFSS message to NSA on Southeast Asia coverage specifically related to Cambodian problem; advises that the OLYMPIC TORCH is acting as radio relay between Nakhon Phanom (NKP) Thailand and Command aircraft, that it has limited SIGINT capability (1 linguist); and inquires whether there are any changes in OLYMPIC TORCH [Redacted] tracks. 25X1

- 1600 NSA message (V39-2394-75) to [Redacted] with collection tasking and processing instructions for the situation. 25X1

- 1601 Commander Naval Security Group (COMNAVSECGRU) message to NSA cites availability of Cambodian linguists.

- 1645 Concerned NSA offices meet to ensure all actions have been taken relative to reporting and collection on the Mayaguez situation.

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	1715	EDT	NSA message (V3-340-75) to OLYMPIC TORCH (in its radio relay function) which requests whatever action can in regard to SIGINT collection.	
	1750		NSA REP NMCC reports that retrieval operation is to begin at 1900 EDT.	
	1730		Commander USASA advises USM-7 (Udorn) that the US Marines had requested USASA assistance in providing six Cambodian linguists to act as interpreters.	
	1740		USAFSS message to NSA with information on transfer of four Cambodian linguists from USM-7 (Udorn) to [redacted]	25X1
STAT	1849		NSA message (V3-118-75) advises all cryptologic units worldwide that NSA declared SIGINT ALERT ONE [redacted] due to seizure of Mayaguez.	
P.L. 86-36	1849		NSA message (V3-341-75) to US-962B telling site about SIGINT ALERT ONE [redacted]	STAT
STAT	1856		NSA message (DDO-186-75) declares SIGINT ALERT ONE [redacted] for action units.	P.L. 86-36
P.L. 86-36	1856		NSA issues Product Report to user on the declaration of SIGINT ALERT ONE [redacted]	STAT
	1950		The NSA REP NMCC advises NSA that the US Marine Operation was delayed until 2050 EDT.	P.L. 86-36
	2123		A field Tactical Report describes 10 survivors of sunken Cambodian gunboat in a raft; possibility that some may be caucasians.	
	2230		NSA REP NMCC advises NSA of a further delay in the Marine Operation. They won't be on scene until 0600 EDT "at the earliest." DDO informed.	
	2235		Issues informal tasking to Overhead Satellite Mission [redacted] on reporting on the possibility of reaction to the situation.	25X1
	2250		Intelligence Center Pacific (IPAC) advises helicopters will attempt search and rescue operation near.	

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Cambodian gunboat sinking by US aircraft. P3 recce aircraft reports that another gunboat is en route Kompong Som with 40 persons on board.

2338 EDT NSA product, reports a possible KC reference to "Enemy" aircraft flights on 13 May.

2353 product report says that the KC was instructed to make contact (with Americans) to solve the problem. NSA Senior Reporter readdresses the report to State, White House, and local users. White House Situation Room (WHSR) expresses great interest in additional info. NSA advises we had already asked site for additional info and will provide as it becomes available. (Report amended later to read "with them" and believed to be a reference to the VC.)

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14 May 1975

0001 EDT reports KC were instructed to transfer them (probably the crew) to NR 5 (probably another patrol boat).

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0011 report that unidentified KC entity passes instructions to the probable patrol craft to keep "them" (probably the Americans) on the side (of the boat) towards the enemy.

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0054 provides information about location of KC comms in their SPOT series.

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0054 NSA message (V10024-75) to DIA acknowledges their request for SIGINT on situation.

0130 Receives CINCPACFLT 140254Z message authorizing the destroyer USS Holt to take a number of actions: Embark boarding or salvage party; provide naval gunfire support in event assault on Koh Tang Island; or take Mayaguez under tow.

0230 IPAC passes to NSA information that, as result of NSC meeting which ended at 0030 this AM, plans are for simultaneous assault on both Koh Tang Island and the Mayaguez at first light Cambodian time on 15 May.

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0238 EDT [Redacted] advises that their earlier Tactical Report on the transfer of personnel to another boat is invalid.

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0305 JCS message (140523Z) received in NSA suggests that CINCPAC consider that the Mayaguez may be booby trapped.

0545 NSA REP NMCC advises NSA that the USS Holt will be on station at 1100 on the 14th, the USS Coral Sea at 0130 on the 15th.

0618 [Redacted] queries NSA if it has any information on attack against a possible Swedish ship.

25X1

0656 The White House Situation Room asked NSA for an update on the situation.

0700 (Approx) NSA modifies existing computerized support program for operational Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) reporting to reflect the Cambodian situation.

0745 NSA Product reports KC message of crew capture ("42 Americans"), air attacks and handling of prisoners.

0814 [Redacted] Product reports North Vietnamese Army Report of Air, Naval encounters (seemingly second hand information).

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0831 IPAC advises that Swedish cargo vessel under attack in Gulf of Siam. Not in area of US operations.

1025

[Redacted]

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1027 Strategic Air Command (SAC) requests support for B-52 operations against Cambodia. DIA calls NOIWON conference, recapped situation in Gulf of Thailand, and advises that 3 Cambodian vessels had been sunk.

✓ 1102

NSA tasking [Redacted] Overhead facilities of Time-Critical processing and reporting.

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✓ 1159

NSA Dispatches Special Overhead tasking message to Overhead Satellite [Redacted]

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14 May 1975

1200 EDT DIA calls National Operations and Intelligence Watch Officers Network (NOIWON) Conference, cites informal message from IPAC which recaps the number of ships in Kompong Som Harbor. NOIWONs now every hour.

1257 White House asks ^{whom} status of KC gunboats in vicinity of Koh Tang Island.

1300 DIA calls a NOIWON conference on the Swedish vessel situation, stating not appear to be in trouble.

1345 NSA Product reports KC message on 400 SW region troops moving as possible reinforcements.

1400 NOIWON on KC seizure of another ship.

1400 NSA implements special data forwarding STAT

1422 NSA Product reports Cambodian message which orders firing on enemy aircraft. P.L.
86-36

1426 NSA message (V3-344-75) advises sites of possible operations in/around Cambodia including possibility of use of B-52s; establishes reporting guidelines for the support SAC requested and describes special coverage of selected Soviet targets for possible reflections/reaction.

1439 NSA message (V3-087-75) with background and instructions on reporting of Mayaguez situation relative to pending operations for ship recovery.

1501 Commander USASA confirms to NSA a request that NSA initiate backup Cambodian reporting procedures for a USM07 (Udorn) mission.

1508 NOIWON convened: Nothing pertinent.

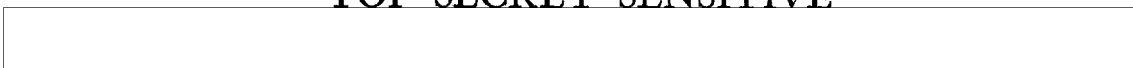
1517 US Special Assistance Group (USSAG), NKP, message to all concerned which contains order of operations for assault of Koh Tang Island by Marines. Assault is to begin at sunrise (0600 15 May Cambodian time, 1900 14 May EDT).



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- 1605 EDT NSA advises NSA REP Pacific of the SAC four hour slippage in time-over-target.
- 1606 NOIWON with no results.
- 1652 NSA message (B34-991-75) provides US Navy field sites with additional technical information and guidance.
- 1659 JCS advises all of the text of the Inserted Message (Ultimatum) to be broadcast to Cambodia about Mayaguez release. Not to be broadcast until order given.
- 1728 IPAC advises NSA that they received the execute order for the first operation at 0045Z. First event to be armed recce of Kompong Som Harbor. Instructions were passed for JCS by ADM Holloway from White House.
- 1731 NSA message (B3-093-75) provides US Navy sites with guidance on reporting Cambodian voice intercept.
- 1748 NSA advises all sites supporting operations that they should not implement special reporting unit until instructed to do so.
- 1755 NSA advises Overhead Satellite Mission   of possibility of Soviet reaction to the recovery operations.
- 1802 NOIWON: Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) asks about "operations"; DIA couldn't tell them anything because of "security," NMCC response is "negative."
- 1810 NSA Rep NMCC advises NSA that the NMCC DDO briefed that at 1915 marines will land and occupy the island, at 2045 USS Holt will be standing offshore and at 2045 Kompong Som will be hit by USS Coral Sea aircraft.
- 1834 NSA message (B-060-75) to USM-7 (Udorn) formalizes previous guidance on the Mayaguez situation.

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[Redacted]

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1854 EDT NSA message (V3-348-75) advises supporting sites that we had received an execute for recovery operations, less the B-52 operations.

1900 NOIWON: NMCC gave brief review of plan; no delay in sked time was expected; sked time is approx 1915.

1901 JCS cancels instructions re Inserted Message (Ultimatum).

1903 [Redacted] to NSA reports that the first choppers were en route USS Holt.

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1910 - Helicopters landing

1913 [Redacted] reports to NSA that first choppers landed on USS Holt.

25X1

1920 [Redacted] reporting many items ("one-liners") on US command communications from their relay position.

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1933 NSA message (DDO-187-75) extends SIGINT ALERT ONE [Redacted] to other collection sites that might reflect other target nations reactions to US recovery operations.

P.L.
86-36
STAT

1940 Landings underway: Choppers being hit.

2014 [Redacted]

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2022 NMCC advises NSA that DIA wants NSA to initiate NOIWON on NSA gray phone system. They understood that the White House is not included in this system.

2027 NOIWON (gray phone system) DIA advises that opera-

[Redacted]

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Penh is willing to release Mayaguez.

2052 IPAC advises NSA that the White House says go with first strike against Kompong Som and then hold for bomb damage assessment.

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- [REDACTED]
- 2107 EDT NSA Rep NMCC advises NSA that Marines have the Mayaguez.
- 2108 NOIWON (gray phone system): DIA advises White House system was "out." NSA verified. NMCC is holding their line open to Secretary Kissinger and NOIWON would break that connection. 25X1
- 2109 [REDACTED] advises that the Cambodians have said they will release the Americans. NSA passes this information to conferees on NOIWON (on-going at time) and to [REDACTED] at the White House Situation Room. P.L. 86-36 STAT
- 2126 NSA Rep NMCC advises that Gen Faurer, DIA, has a "tape" to send to [REDACTED] Related to detailed discussions on 14th on intrusion into Cambodian comms. 25X1
- 2155 SAC contact relays to NSA a "cease order" on Coral Sea air operations associated with recovery operation. SAC still on 1-hour alert.
- 2205 NOIWON (on gray phone): Marines found a Collins radio on Island. USSAG advises it is standard Cambodian communications gear.
- 2240 SAC advises NSA that the Coral Sea operations are back on. No time-over-target yet. Nothing further on SAC B-52 operations.
- 2245 NSA releases two messages: To [REDACTED] (RC-135s SIGINT collector) for transmission to enemy forces per agreements between NSA and DIA; to alert all sites to any reaction to the broadcast by KC. 25X1
- 2257 IPAC reports to NSA that US Navy says they have struck Ream airfield.
- 2306 NOIWON (convened at DIA request on gray phone) Nothing new.
- 2312 NSA Product reports some 13 MIG-21s moving from Da-nang-to-Bien Hoa on 15 May.

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[REDACTED]

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- 2312 EDT The USS Wilson had Mayaguez crew onboard. All OK per NSA Rep/NMCC.
- 2318 NSA advises DDO on recovery of crew and on status of [REDACTED] message for them to broadcast. NSA to contact DIA re cancellation of the broadcast. 25X1
- 2320 NOIWON (gray system) DIA requested it. Nothing new.
- 2330 General Faurer, DIA, asks NSA to call Mr. Stearman at White House re the cancellation of the broadcast message. Stearman says not to cancel until situation is clarified. NSA advised [REDACTED] (OLYMPIC TORCH) to hold. (15/0335Z) 25X1
- 2338 NSA queries [REDACTED] actually transmitted message to KC. 25X1
- 2341 IPAC wants to know from NSA the authority for cancellation of the broadcast. Advises them was White House.
- 2355 [REDACTED] advises NSA that they did not broadcast message to KC. 25X1

15 May 1975

- 0008 EDT NOIWON (gray system) Nothing to Report.
- 0028 President Ford announces crew recovered. NSA is informed.
- 0130 NSA asks White House if we could cancel all actions pertaining to broadcast of message to KC. Gen. Scowcroft says yes. NSA advises all concerned and NMCC.
- 0158 Having trouble getting Marines off the island.
- 0159 SAC advises NSA that B-52 operations all cancelled and SAC crews released from Alert status.
- 0200 NOIWON (Gray system) Nothing to Report.

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- [REDACTED]
- 0400 EDT NOIWON (Gray system) Nothing to Report.
- 0405 National Military Intelligence Center to NSA (NMIC), asking about lack of KC intercepts and tactical reports; NSA advises him that the SIGINT system remains on Alert.
- 0433 NSA Product reports KC say they will release crew, ship; they had seen US Marines on Mayaguez; they will defend themselves.
- 0505 USM-7 (Udorn) relates in a Tactical Report 14 May intercept that says reinforcements and supplies being sent and problems continue with getting Marines off Island.
- 0527 NSA Product reports KC troops movements; reinforcements and supplies to be sent in.
- 0530 SAC advises NSA that the OLYMPIC TORCH (U-2R) aborted at 0501.. Back-up on way.
- 0601 NOIWON (gray system) Nothing to Report.
- 0610 [REDACTED] reports that 26 persons on one side of the island will attempt to join the 70 on the other side, and that covering aircraft will attempt to quell hostile fire. 25X1
- 0611 NSA Rep/NMCC advises NSA that during last night's News Conference, Ron Nessen referred to US transmission of a message directly to the KC on frequencies we knew they would be monitoring. NSA asked NSA Rep at NMCC to provide a copy.
- 0645 Small boats will be used to get personnel off Island as choppers receiving too much ground fire.
- 0806 NOIWON Nothing to Report, possibly last one on Mayaguez situation.
- 0915 NSA Product provides KC reports of US bombing of KC forces and request for guidance on actions to take.

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0950 EDT Field Reports indicate all Marines off Island.

1017 CINCPAC releases all 7th fleet forces from Operation except TG77.5 (H. B. Wilson, H. E. Holt and Vega.)

1035 JCS Says all Marines must be out of Thailand by first light of 16th,

1040 Reverts to normal Overhead tasking at overhead satellite mission [Redacted]

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1315 Receives CINCPAC message (time 1042) ordering Task Group 77.5 to stay within 35 nm of Koh Tank Island with ready choppers.

1334 Terminates further Overhead tasking at overhead satellite Mission [Redacted]

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1727 NSA Product reporting that KC discuss bomb damage to warehouses, relocation of contents.

1731 NSA Summary Product covers 13-15 May, reviews a previously published product.

16 May 1975

0200 EDT [Redacted] report on an 8 May KC message stating aircraft picked up bodies of dead Americans in Cambodia; ten bodies - CIA saboteurs. DIA/CIA/NMCC state the bodies are not part of Mayaguez operation.

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1701-1709 NSA message (V3-350-75) terminates SIGINT ALERT ONE [Redacted] and all special support functions.

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P.L.
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II. Activities of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)TIME (EDT)ACTION12 May 1975

0518 EDT	Received CRITIC (AMEMB JAKARTA May 75 time 0503), regarding seizure of US merchant ship Mayaguez.
0520	NSA contacted National Military Intelligence Center (NMIC) to assure CRITIC received.
0530	CIA contacted NMIC to discuss CRITIC.
0535	NMIC verified that National Military Command Center (NMCC) has CRITIC.
0550	NMIC discussed CRITIC with Intelligence Center Pacific (IPAC) and likelihood of need for recce.
0610	NMIC verified that CIA and NSA representatives in NMCC had no additional information and that NMCC would notify State Operations Center of CRITIC. Also notified General Faurer, Deputy Director for Intelligence, DIA.
0620	Naval Ocean Surveillance Information Center (NOSIC) passed specifications of seized ship to NMIC, which were then passed to NMCC.
0800	Briefed Acting Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff on firing on and boarding of US merchant ship Mayaguez in Gulf of Thailand some 60 nm southwest of Kompong Som on 12 May, and that ship was reported moving under its own power toward the port of Kompong Som escorted by a Khmer Communist (KC) navy patrol craft. No casualties reported and the crew did not believe itself in immediate danger.
0830	Notified National Intelligence Bulletin (NIB) staff that DIA would publish an article on the Mayaguez seizure in the next NIB. Draft article was submitted about noon and published on the 13th.

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0900	EDT	Queried NOSIC on deck cargo and whether any US citizens aboard.
0930		Issued Special Defense Intelligence Notice 1140-75: "Khmer Communists Seize US Merchant Ship."
Morning*		Asked NOSIC for list of all ships enroute to or scheduled for Cambodian port of Kompong Som. Specific info was to include ship name, flag, voyage departure, current location, and cargo, if known.
Morning*		Asked NOSIC for list of all ships within 24 hours steaming time of Gulf of Thailand.
Morning*		Asked NOSIC for description and dispositions of KC merchant fleet.
Morning*		Query to NSA regarding coverage of KC communication activity in Gulf of Thailand area.
Morning*		Query to NOSIC requesting information on crew, home port, last port of call and destination of Mayaguez.
Morning*		DIA request to CINCPAC for information on nationality status of Poulo Wai Islands.
Morning*		Photo research initiated within DIA to identify available aerial photography. 27 April determined to be last coverage of Poulo Wai.
Early Afternoon*		Query to Subic Bay Naval Base, Philippines requesting debriefing of any refugees with knowledge of Poulo Wai Islands.
Early Afternoon*		Query to U-Tapao Thailand Refugee Center asking that refugees be interviewed for any information concerning Poulo Wai Islands.
1340		Provided Secretary of Defense basic information on islands in question -- population, size, and significance to the Khmer Communists.

* *Exact time not available.*

DIA - 2

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

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- 1400 EDT Forwarded Memo to Joint Reconnaissance Center (JRC) requesting urgent requirement for photo coverage of Poulo Wai. Provided general officer representative to Service Deputies for Operations Conference in NMCC.
- 1510 Senior Authorities Room in the NMCC is activated. DIA will provide intelligence briefings as required.
- 1544 DIA/J3 message to CINCPAC, requesting continuous P-3 coverage of northern Gulf of Thailand, RF-4C reconnaissance of Phnom Penh, Kompong Som and Poulo Wai, and U-2R coverage of Poulo Wai.
- 1557 Message to NSA requesting increased SIGINT coverage of KC communications regarding Mayaguez.
- 1708 Message to Pacific Command (PACOM), SAC, and SAC Strategic Reconnaissance Center providing detailed operational reconnaissance guidance.
- 1720 Asked CINCPAC for available information regarding Poulo Wai Island.
- 1744 Description of seized US vessel passed to Pacific Fleet (PACFLT).
- 1745 Provided Secretary of Defense map and photos of Kompong Som area.
- 1845 Dispatched message to Defense Attache Office Bangkok asking details on 7 May seizure of Panamanian ship in same area.

13 May 1975

- 0545 EDT CINCPAC and 7/13 UDORN asked for any available info on deck loading of seized ship.
- 0710 DIA concurred with PACOM recommendation for utilization of OLYMPIC TORCH (U-2R) as airborne relay for US forces communications.

DIA - 3

TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

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0830 EDT Briefing prepared for Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mayaguez located at anchor one nm North of Koh Tang Island. US surveillance aircraft took small arms fire on two occasions, with a possible hit in stabilizer. No public statements by KC, but communication intercept states "that the KC will take the 42 Americans and nine unidentified Vietnamese to Koh Tang Island." Also briefed following info concerning Poulo Wai Island group obtained from the debriefing of a Cambodian naval officer: Eastern Island has 1800-3000 ft airstrip, small naval facility, communications site, 60-man contingent, two 75 mm gun emplacements, several 12.7 mm and M-60 machine guns, mortars and some unknown Chinese weapons. (Briefing delivered informally to the Chairman, JCS and dispatched world-wide by message to other consumers.)

1100 Asked FBIS to request info on foreign press coverage of Mayaguez incident. Asked that they provide any information ASAP directly to Southeast Asia Division of DIA.

Morning* Query of CINCPAC requesting details relating to Koh Tang Island from Cambodian refugees.

Morning* Query to NOSIC requesting information on number and status of Cambodian merchant fleet.

Morning* Query to Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR), Department of State requesting any information on news broadcast reporting that the Mayaguez will be released after KC receive "US apologies and return of Khmer aircraft that were flown to Thailand."

Morning* Query to CINCPAC for info on KC combat strength, and weapons, type and number of troops on Islands. Also asked for any info available from reconnaissance pilot debriefing.

Morning* Query to NSA on US ability to enter KC communication net to transmit message to KC leadership.

* Exact time not available.

DIA - 4

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

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- 1300 EDT CINCPAC passed requested information concerning Koh Tang Island to DIA.
- 1300-1400 Asked B-Group NSA why lack of KC communications intercepts regarding Mayaguez situation. DIA informed that it had received what little was available. Reasons given for lack of COMINT was lack of technical data on Khmer naval communications in order to isolate signals.
- 1435 DIA requested debrief of reconnaissance pilots ASAP on combat force strength on the Cambodian islands. JSC reconnaissance requirements were 4 RF-4s flown Kompong Som to Ream-40% successful; 1 OLYMPIC MEET U-2 against Poulo Wai-30% successful; P-3 continuous surveillance of Koh Tang Island per CINCPAC.
- 1450 Admiral Gayler, CINCPAC, who was in Washington, formed a task group in NMCC, and requested DIA assistance. A representative was dispatched.
- 1600 Received requirement from White House Situation Room for the best and most current photos of Koh Tang Island. Photos were to be annotated with information on the approaches to the northeast beach.
- 1725 CINCPAC reported that US tactical aircraft had fired on a KC patrol boat in Gulf of Thailand.
- 1755 DIA rep to Adm Gayler task force notified CINCPAC J-2 that additional reconnaissance of Koh Tang required.
- 1800 Asked NSA what data needed to help in search for KC communications signals. Requirements passed to CINCPAC for collection from knowledgeable former Khmer Navy personnel approx 2000.
- 1807 Message to Armed Forces Courier Service. CINCPAC concurs in recommended delivery procedures for expediting photo materials to Washington.

DIA - 5

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

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- 1844 EDT DIA annotated photographs and hydrostatic map of Koh Tang Island sent to the White House per their 1600 request.
- 1945 Defense Intelligence Notice 1150-75; "Status of US Merchant Ship."
- 2000 FBIS requested to emphasize Cambodian coverage regarding Mayaguez incident.
- 2036 DIA notified that KC patrol ships in Gulf of Thailand were fired on by tactical aircraft and that one caught fire and sunk.
- 2045 DIA contacted IPAC regarding procedure to be followed to debrief Cambodian survivor(s) of sunken boat on arrival in Thailand. IPAC has the action and will keep DIA advised.
- 2250 IPAC called with information that action being taken to properly debrief any KC survivors of patrol boats.

14 May 1975

- 0054 EDT NSA message to DIA - acknowledged DIA requirement for SIGINT coverage relating to Mayaguez.
- 0058 DIA queried USSAG battle staff on readout of island photos. USSAG advised that reconnaissance was continuous and would be passed to DIA as available.
- 0200 Coordinated potential targets with SAC for possible B-52 strikes in Cambodia.
- 0233 Secretary of Defense requested copies of all Cambodian SIGINT intercepts. Arrangements made to deliver hourly with provision for ASAP delivery of hot items.
- 0303 DIA received requirement to update target maps by 0630 and to be on call for possible situation briefing.

DIA - 6

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

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- 0314 EDT IPAC tasked to provide Air Order of Battle at Ream Airfield and Naval Order of Battle at Kompong Som Naval Base and Port. Info needed ASAP.
- 0415 Received requirement from SAC for accurate photos of Ream Air Base, Kompong Som Port and Ream Naval Base.
- 0420 Received requirement from Acting Chairman, JCS to provide 8x10 photos with target description of:
- Ream Airfield
- Ream Naval Base
- Kompong Som Harbor
Needed ASAP for National Security Council meeting.
- 0429 Passed photo update info to SAC in response to requirement for current air and naval order of battle of Ream Air Base and Naval Base and the Kompong Som Port.
- 0450 Informed that the National Intelligence Officer for South and Southeast Asia had identified a private citizen [redacted] that is knowledgeable of Koh Tang Island. Requested to determine if secure communications could be established with the source and to draw up a set of questions for a debrief. When secure communications could not be established, DIA decided, based on a review of preliminary information, that the source's knowledgeability warranted immediate transportation to the Pentagon for a debrief by the Services, Joint Staff and DIA. Source arrived here at 1530 for a successful debrief.
- 0614 White House Situation Room requests any COMPASS LINK photos of good quality of Mayaguez.
- 0753 J-3 tasked DIA to provide estimate of enemy threat on Koh Tang Island.

STAT

DIA - 7

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

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- 0830 EDT Briefing prepared for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, that Mayaguez remains anchored north-east of Koh Tang Island. Most of crew has apparently been transferred to the island and it is possible that some personnel may have been moved to the mainland. CINCPAC has received late information from the US ship Texas Ranger that a cargo vessel of Swedish registry was reportedly attacked by a patrol boat approximately 12 miles southwest of Panjang Island at 132340. (Briefing delivered informally to the Chairman, JCS and dispatched by message world-wide.)
- 0837 NMCC requested DIA provide 8x10 glossy photos of type-2 Swift Boat and a River Patrol Boat. Photos passed to NMCC at 0946.
- 1000 A DIA Intelligence Task Force reporting on the seizure of the Mayaguez was formalized.
- 1030 DIA began procedure to convene a National Operational and Intelligence Watch Officers Network (NOIWON) call every 30 minutes. Later reduced to every hour.
- 1100 Special Defense Intelligence Notice 1157-75: "Cambodian Patrol Boat Attacks Swedish Cargo Vessel."
- 1104 DIA activated NOIWON conference net. Passed information on firing upon Swedish registry ship off Panjang Island group. NMCC stated Navy P-3 aircraft has been diverted to investigate. NMCC passed status of five KC ships near Mayaguez. White House requested instructions be passed USS Holt when it arrives on station.
- 1110 DIA provided information on Cambodian vessels damaged by US aircraft to the US Mission at the UN.
- 1130 DIA firmed up procedures to receive, process and exploit post-strike recce to include FLASH Initial Photographic Intelligence Reports (IPIRS) and COMPASS LINK transmission of photos on priority basis.

DIA - 8

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1200 EDT Drafted "ultimatum" message to KC. Provided to NMCC for forwarding.

1200 DIA activated NOIWON conference net. Discussed recent info on ships in Kompong Som Port.

1300 DIA activated NOIWON conference net. Passed data on P-3 observation of MS Hirado, the ship believed to have been fired upon by KC. CIA queried as to whether we had anything on second Panamanian ship coming under fire; we have nothing. CIA suspects duplicate press reporting of first Panamanian incident.

1400 DIA activated NOIWON conference net. Passed IPAC report on KC seizing Thai registry ship near Panjang Island. Ship later reported released.

1415 Defense Intelligence Notice 1159-75: "Thailand Reactions to US Ship Seizure."

1510 DIA activated NOIWON conference net. Passed report from IPAC on another possible Khmer ship sunk by US aircraft. Confirmed Defense Condition (DEFCON) 4 status for PACOM.

1525 DIA provided Mayaguez Situation Report by phone to Defense Nuclear Agency.

1527 DIA representative at the UN unable to provide any new info on Swedish freighter incident. (See entry for 1300 above).

1700 DIA activated NOIWON conference net. Passed info on beaching/sinking of KC small craft by AC-130. Again questioned NSA on availability of COMINT. Reply was negative.

1800 Query involving White House Situation Room, NMCC, CINCPAC and NSA regarding transmission of ultimatum to KC.

DIA - 9

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- 1801 EDT DIA activated NOIWON conference net. Discussed CINCPACFLT clarification that former Thai registered freighter referred to earlier was in fact of Panamanian registry (See 14/1400).
- 2000 DIA activated NOIWON conference net. Passed Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) transmission of Phnom Penh radio statement that Cambodian government to release ship. No confirming info this time.
- 2050 PACOM requested info concerning activity on board the Mayaguez.
- 2110 DIA activated NOIWON conference net. Passed PACOM report of boarding of Mayaguez and capture of six KC, no Americans. No info on FBIS/UPI report on release of American Ship. NSA passed report from unidentified Cambodian station that stated "let Americans and ship go." NSA trying to evaluate.
- 2205 DIA activated NOIWON conference net. Passed USSAG message of 1730 about US Collins manufactured radio possibly being on island. NMCC passed model type and stated frequency range unknown. Provided to aid NSA on communication.
- 2304 DIA received word from PACOM that 30 Caucasians were heading toward Koh Tang waving white flags.
- 2320 DIA asked to verify by NMCC that no American oilmen are on Koh Tang.
- 2322 DIA activated NOIWON conference net. Passed follow up that USS Wilson reportedly picked-up 32 Americans; 5 Thai. Master of Mayaguez reported that is entire crew. White House Situation Room notified.

15 May 1975

- 0225 EDT DIA and IPAC both requested that Cambodian communications be isolated and systems checked since there has been no recent communication intercepts. NSA replied that there were no communications to intercept.

DIA - 10

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- 0429 EDT DIA requested IPAC provide clearer picture of how US forces were deployed on the island.
- 0825 Defense Intelligence Notice 1167-75: "Mayaguez and Its Crew Rescued."
- 0827 DIA received information from PACOM that all US Marines had been removed from the island.
- 0830 Briefing prepared for Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Stated that the rapid and unexpected reaction by the US as seen by the Khmer Communists probably aided in the early release of the crew of the merchant ship Mayaguez. (Briefing delivered informally to Chairman and dispatched world-wide by message to other consumers.)
- 1146 DIA received requirement from the NMCC for before and after photos of Cambodian targets.

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III. Activities of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR),
Department of State

5 May 1975

INR reported 4 May Cambodian attack on South Korean tanker in INR Afternoon Summary

12 May 1975

0515 EDT

INR Watch Office received CRITIC from Embassy Djakarta reporting capture of SS Mayaguez. INR passed copies of messages to INR recipients only.

0630

Late item on Mayaguez inserted in Secretary's Morning Summary. Copy was sent by LDX to White House Situation Room and copies of summary were distributed to all Department Principals at 0700 by State Secretariat (S/S),

0720

Mr. Hyland, Director of INR, read information available on Mayaguez.

0800

Mr. Hyland attended the Secretary's Staff Meeting. He briefed the Secretary on details of the incident.

(As events developed and new information was received during the next two days, Mr. Hyland briefed the Secretary and Deputy Secretary on a continuing basis. INR officers also briefed the Assistant Secretary and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian Affairs and the Mayaguez Working Group).

0815

The Secretary requested a memo explaining the delay in the alerting of the Department's policy officers on the seizure of the Mayaguez. Requirement levied on INR, S/S, and East Asia (EA).

0830

Mr. Hyland asked the INR Current Intelligence Staff (CIS) to check with the Pentagon on Department of Defense (DOD) actions undertaken or planned.

0900

INR/CIS informed that no DOD action was planned at that time.

0930

INR/CIS informed that DOD will use air assets available at Utapao to overfly area.

INR - 1

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1000 EDT INR/CIS discussed procedures for handling CRITICS with NSA and asked for all NSA traffic on incident.

1300 NSA informed INR/CIS that field sites were intercepting information from US reconnaissance commander and they would keep INR informed.

1700 INR Afternoon Summary published status report on Mayaguez and information on earlier attack on Panamanian ship.

1700 Memo forwarded to Secretary from INR, S/S, and EA explaining the delay in alerting the Department's policy officers on the seizure of the Mayaguez.

2020 INR alerted White House Situation Room to NSA report on KC naval activity in Gulf of Thailand. Sit Room was an addressee but had not yet received item.

2022 INR/CIS called CIA, DIA, and NSA for recent information on Mayaguez. CIA reported sensitive military contingency plan.

2050 Mr. Hyland was briefed by phone. He asked to be called on anything significant.

2125 Mr. Rives in EA was briefed on item in 2020 entry.

2150 INR/CIS received CRITIC reporting Mayday message from vessel identified phonetically as MARLBOROUGH. A call to Embassy Singapore confirmed that second ship had not been seized.

2220 NMCC reported Mayaguez had been identified 1 1/2 mile off Pulo Wai Island. Mr. Hyland informed.

13 May 1975

0110 EDT NMCC advised INR that Mayaguez was moving and was expected to arrive at Kompong Som at 0314 EDT.

0345 INR/CIS called NMCC and JRC and was advised that photos from the U-2 and RF-4 flights would be available by 0800.

INR - 2

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- 0440 EDT NSA report indicated that the KC intended to move 42 Americans and 9 Vietnamese to Koh Tang Island. INR/CIS informed Operations Center and the Military Representative.
- 0700 INR published status report on Mayaguez and other recent naval activity in the area in the Secretary's Morning Summary.
- 0815 INR/CIS checked with NSA on information reporting movement of Americans to Koh Tang Island. NSA said technical backup confirms information is correct.
- 0930 Mr. Hyland requested detailed chronology of all information on Mayaguez to be ready by 1130 and a situation report to be ready by 1330.
- 1155 INR/CIS delivered chronology, maps and report on geographic setting of area to Mr. Hyland, Acting Secretary Ingersoll and Under Secretary Sisco.
- 1215 INR/CIS called White House Situation Room for any information on US planning. Nothing available.
- 1300 Representatives from INR/CIS and the Operations Center attended meeting at CIA to discuss how a similar failure to alert might be avoided in the future.
- 1400 INR/CIS issued first situation report on Mayaguez. Report covered operational developments, intelligence material, the status of enemy, Chinese, Soviet, and Vietnamese forces and the US aircraft in Thailand.
- 1400 White House Situation Room reported that five KC vessels were in the immediate vicinity of the Mayaguez. Information was inserted as a late item in the Situation Report.
- 1630 NSA confirmed once again that information on movement of Americans to Koh Tang was correct.

INR - 3

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- 1700 EDT Status Report on Mayaguez updating Situation Report published in INR Afternoon Summary.
- 2130 INR prepared update on Mayaguez information including maps and photos for Mr. Hyland's 2145 briefing of Acting Secretary Ingersoll and Under Secretary Sisco. Photos showed Koh Tang and locations of KC vessels and maps indicated US vessels enroute and estimated times of arrival.
- 2350 NSA sent Flash report mentioning US air activity and return of Americans. Item passed to DDO. INR asked NSA to pass additional reports as soon as possible.

14 May 1975

- 0120 EDT INR/CIS alerted the Director of Mayaguez Working Group to NSA report possibly indicating KC interest in political solution. Report also briefed to DDO, the Secretary's Personal Assistant, and the White House Situation Room.
- 0700 INR/CIS prepared situation report on Mayaguez for Secretary's Morning Summary.
- 0815 INR/CIS asked NSA for verification of information in NSA's Report of 0120 reporting KC interest in political solution. NSA promised to advise INR/CIS as soon as possible.
- 1105 DIA NOIWON call requesting current information on Mayaguez.
- 1130 INR/CIS prepared updated chronology for Mr. Hyland, Deputy Secretary Ingersoll and Under Secretary Sisco.
- 1200 DIA convened NOIWON to update information from intelligence community.
- 1306 DIA convened NOIWON; no new information was developed.

INR - 4

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- 1510 EDT DIA convened NOIWON on AP ticker reporting that Cambodians had seized and detained a Panamanian ship for two hours.
- 1600 INR/CIS issued situation report on current developments, enemy forces on Koh Tang, and foreign press reaction.
- 1630 NSA informed INR/CIS that they had alerted field sites to a B-52 alert.
- 1640 NSA informed INR that they were unable to clarify information in 0120 concerning Cambodian interest in political settlement.
- 1700 Situation Report on Mayaguez published in INR Afternoon Summary.
- 1700 DIA will convene NOIWON call on hourly basis. DIA reported sinking of fifth Cambodian naval vessel by C-130 gunship.
- 1800 DIA initiated NOIWON. P-3 on way to MS Hirado. CIA asked for details of planned US operations. DIA said there was a security problem. NMCC said they had no information on plans that they could pass.
- 1900 DIA initiated NOIWON. DIA had nothing significant to report. NMCC advised that an EXECUTE message had gone out: 400 Marines would go from Utapao via the USS Holt to secure the Mayaguez. Naval TacAir support has been authorized. Substance passed verbally to Working Group and Mr. Hyland.
- 1915 DIA initiated NOIWON. NMCC reported the first of two helicopters had landed on the Holt at 1910. Passed to Mr. Hyland and working group.
- 1958 FBIS alerted INR WATCH to bulletin they were putting on the wire reporting Radio Cambodia advising they will release the Mayaguez. Copies of FBIS secured from printer and distributed to Mr. Hyland and Working Group.

INR - 5

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- 2115 EDT DIA initiated NOIWON. Marines have secured the Mayaguez and captured 6 Khmer. No Americans were on board. Mr. Hyland and Working Group informed.
- 2115 NSA reported message passed from unidentified KC command saying "Let them take their ship and leave." Passed to Working Group.
- 2210 DIA convened NOIWON. Had nothing to report other than tech info on radios on island in hands of KC when captured. They said reporting has become confused.
- 2305 DIA reported message from PACOM: There is a gunboat 10 miles from Koh Tang island approaching with about 30 Caucasians on board. Boat is showing a white flag. Passed to Working Group.
- 2322 DIA initiated NOIWON: The USS Wilson has picked up 32 American and 5 Thai nationals. The master of the Mayaguez reports this is the entire crew. Passed to Working Group.

15 May 1975

- 0009 EDT DIA initiated NOIWON. Nothing significant to report.
- 0200 DIA initiated NOIWON. Nothing significant to report.
- 0400 DIA initiated NOIWON. Nothing significant to report.
- 0600 DIA initiated NOIWON. Nothing significant to report.
- 0700 Status Report on Mayaguez published by INR in Secretary's Morning Summary.
- 0800 DIA initiated NOIWON. Nothing significant to report.

INR - 6

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IV. Activities of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

4 May 1975

0230 EDT CIA Operations Center informed of message from USS Gridley which states an intercepted SOS had been picked up from a Korean vessel reporting that it was being captured by a Cambodian Communist ship.

12 May 1975

0518 EDT Operations Center received CRITIC from Jakarta reporting that US ship (Mayaguez) had been fired upon and boarded by the Cambodian Communists.

0518-0630 Operations Center called DIA, NMCC, White House Situation Room, and the National SIGINT Operations Center (NSOC) to ensure they had received the CRITIC. (State Department Operations Center was not called because NSOC assured CIA Operations Center that they had notified State about the CRITIC.)

0518-0630 Operations Center informed the editor of the National Intelligence Daily (NID) of the incident and asked that the event be considered for use in the 12 May issue of the NID as a late item. (The NID did not carry the story because the publication was already in the process of being printed.)

0635 Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) informed of Mayaguez seizure.

0710 Operations Center informed that Acting JCS is requesting authorization of overflights of seizure area.

0725 Operations Center received CRITIC follow-up stating that contact with ship had been lost since 0500.

0740 Operations Center informed that JCS had tasked CINCPAC to provide reconnaissance only of the US-registered ship.

0800 briefs President.

25X1

0830 DCI briefed on status of Mayaguez.

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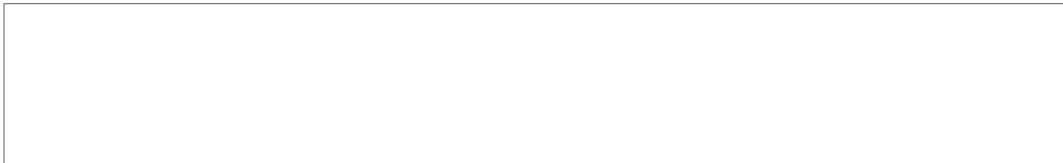
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1005 EDT Operations Center informed that execute orders for photo recon as soon as possible had been issued and directed that "nearest surface unit" was to speed to area at best speed to provide assistance as practicable.

Morning



STAT

1210 Operations Center receives first reconnaissance mission results.

2200 White House Situation Room (WHSR) requested a map of the Gulf of Thailand and the land mass that arcs the Gulf -- map to highlight Poulo Wai Island and Kompong Som.

2230 DCI briefed on Cambodian incident.


13 May 1975

0305 EDT Operations Center informed that present estimates were that Mayaguez would arrive in Kompong Som around 0315 EDST. Operations Center conferred with WHSR on subject -- also briefed National Intelligence Officer on matter.

0420 Operations Center informed that Mayaguez had not gone to Kompong Som, but was lying dead in the water some 30 miles off the Cambodian coast.

Morning President's Daily Brief, National Intelligence Daily, and National Intelligence Bulletin carry articles on the Mayaguez incident.

0615 DCI briefed on Cambodian situation.

0650 NIO requests that DIA query Subic regarding any information that the Cambodian refugee,  might have on the general characteristics of Koh Tang Island.

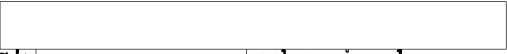

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- 0720 EDT Operations Center receives call from aide to General Scowcroft asking for general information on Koh Tang Island. NIO to be in contact.
- 0900 DCI requests that Intelligence Community Staff make recommendations on how to avoid redundancy and delay in reacting to CRITICs.
- 1030 DCI briefs National Security Council on Mayaguez incident, including current situation and reactions.
- 1600 Situation Report issued by CIA/Office of Current Intelligence on the Mayaguez incident.
- 1758 CIA alerts its stations in various Asian capitals to report via IMMEDIATE precedence any reactions to US moves vis-a-vis the Mayaguez affair.
- 1900 Following earlier query,  of CIA/DDO locates contact  who is knowledgeable concerning Poulo Wai and Koh Tang Islands. Contact debriefed initially via long distance telephone by NIO and Assistant NIO. 25X1
25X1
- 1945 Operations Center informed that all questions from CIA, NSA, and DIA regarding the Mayaguez affair be directed to Admiral Train, Director of the Joint Staff.
- 2015 NIO confers with Admiral Train to obtain up-to-date status report on Mayaguez operation.
- 2040 Operations Center informed that US aircraft had sunk Cambodian vessels while trying to force them to return to Koh Tang. Also, received FBIS message stating that Thai newspaper had story that Thailand would not allow US Marines to enter Thailand. DCI and NIO briefed on developments.
- 2230 DCI briefs National Security Council on current situation relating to Mayaguez affair, including estimate of Communist military forces in the area.

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[Redacted]

25X1

14 May 1975

0115 EDT DCI briefed on situation.

0120 WHSR requests briefing map of Kompong Som.

Morning President's Daily Brief, National Intelligence Daily, and National Intelligence Bulletin report on current status of the Mayaguez affair.

[Redacted]

25X1

0645 Operations Center informed that Swedish registry vessel reportedly attacked and shot at by Cambodian gunboat near Panjang Island, 75 miles south of Kompong Som.

0800 Mr. [Redacted] briefs the President.

25X1

0900 DCI requests the Intelligence Community Staff to determine why intelligence on earlier seizures of vessels by the Cambodians had not been forthcoming in time to alert shipping in the area.

[Redacted]

25X1

1600 DCI briefs National Security Council on situation, including updated information on Communist forces in the area, other possible incidents involving Cambodian actions against ships in the area, and Thai reactions to the situation.

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- 1600 EDT CIA issues Situation Report on the Mayaguez incident, covering basically the same subjects treated in the DCI's briefing to the NSC.
- 1612 Operations Center informed by JCS that US aircraft scored a direct hit on gunboat in the vicinity of the Mayaguez. The DCI and WHSR alerted.
- 1816 Operations Center informed that US Marines will land on Koh Tang at 1915; personnel from the USS Holt to board the Mayaguez two hours later; and aircraft from the USS Coral Sea will strike Kompong Som at 2045. DCI and NIO alerted.
- 1930 Operations Center advised by WHSR that one of US troop helicopters had been shot down. DCI's office and NIO informed.
- 2002 Operations Center alerted by FBIS Duty Officer to Radio Phnom Penh broadcast stating that Cambodia will order the Mayaguez to withdraw. DCI and NIO alerted. WHSR also alerted and requested to inform President and Dr. Kissinger.
- 2037 Operations Center advised by WHSR that at 2027 President Ford ordered a stop in the action planned against mainland Cambodia. DCI alerted.
- 2051 Operations Center advised by WHSR that President had countermanded the stop order and had just ordered the first wave of aircraft to strike Cambodia. Also, the Mayaguez had been boarded, but there was no word yet on the crew. DCI and NIO alerted.
- 2305 Operations Center informed of PACOM report of sighting of a Cambodian boat with an undetermined number of Causasians on board who are waving white flags.
- 2325 Operations Center briefed DCI, NIO and other senior CIA personnel on the rescue of the Mayaguez crew.

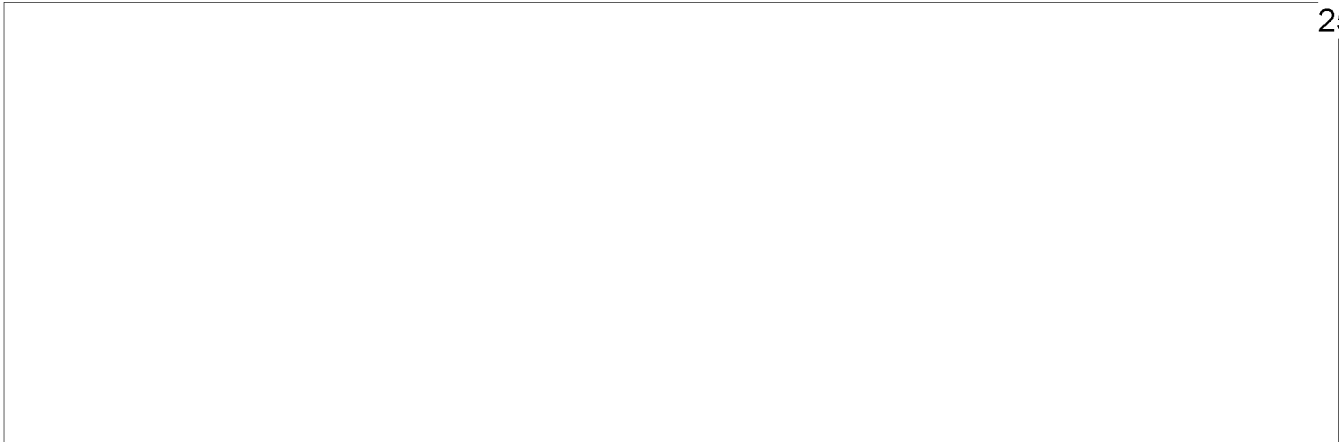
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15 May 1975



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Morning President's Daily Brief, National Intelligence Daily, and National Intelligence Bulletin report on the situation.

0545 Operations Center informed by WHSR that helicopters attempted to evacuate Marines from Koh Tang at 0300 but abandoned effort due to Communist ground fire. Renewed effort to be made at 0650. Preliminary US reports are one KIA and eight WIA.



25X1

0800 Mr.  briefs the President.

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0817 Operations Center received JCS message stating that all the Marines had been evacuated. DCI and NIO informed.

0820 Operations Center informed by NMCC and WHSR that JCS message on evacuation of Marines had not been confirmed. NMCC says operation is still in progress. DCI and NIO informed.

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[Redacted]

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- 0905 EDT FBIS alerted to need for all foreign reaction to the US action in Cambodia.
- 1030 DCI briefs National Security Council on reactions to the Mayaguez incident.
- 1030 Operations Center receives report that the evacuation of the Marines was completed at 0920. DCI and NIO informed.
- 1150 Operations Center informed that all ships in the Cambodian operation have been released to normal operations with the exception of the USS Coral Sea and her escorts.
[Redacted] DCI and NIO informed.
- 1300 Operations Center receives JCS message stating that Mayaguez had been towed into international waters and was proceeding to Singapore.

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