



NEWS from **U.S. Senator Bob Dole**

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

FOR RELEASE UPON REQUEST
MONDAY, MAY 12, 1975

CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON

Statement by Senator Bob Dole following seizure of U.S. merchant ship by Cambodia:

DETAILS ON THE CAMBODIAN SEIZURE OF AN AMERICAN VESSEL ARE AS YET INCOMPLETE.
IF THE MATTER IS SUBSTANTIALLY AS REPORTED, HOWEVER, PRESIDENT FORD HAS MY SUPPORT IN
TAKING WHATEVER FIRM ACTION MAY BE NECESSARY TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE VESSEL AND
TO GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF THE AMERICAN CREW-MEMBERS.



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Associated Press

A United States merchant ship has been seized on the high seas by a Cambodian naval vessel in the Gulf of Thailand in what President Ford described today as "an act of piracy."

The President instructed the State Department to demand immediate release of the ship, which a White House spokesman said was forced to the port of Kompong Som in Cambodia.

White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen announced the seizure of the merchant ship, identified as the "Mayaguez" of U.S. registry owned by the Sealand Corp., with a crew believed to number 39 persons.

Nessen said the ship was unarmed when it was seized 60 miles off the coast of Cambodia, about eight miles from a small rock island. The press secretary said the rock island apparently is claimed by both Cambodia and Vietnam.

He said his report of the seizure was based on several radio messages from the ship. "The radio has now stopped transmitting," Nessen said.

Ford considers the seizure of the ship "an act of piracy" and warned that failure to release it "will have the most serious consequences," Nessen said.